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# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIII, Issue No. 13

FRIDAY JANUARY 18, 2013

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## OPINION METER

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to cast your vote.

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India and Pakistan agreed on Wednesday to ease tensions in disputed Kashmir. **> PAGE 20**

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Islamist militants hunkered down for the night in a natural gas complex they had assaulted Wednesday morning. **> PAGE 21**

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Kim Kardashian says it was nice to be out of the media spotlight during the early stages of her pregnancy. **> PAGE 24**

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**AS 120-DAY EMERGENCY CONTRACT OF \$229K EXPIRED WITHOUT RFP**

## No-bid Marpi landfill contract extended

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

A \$229,000 sole-source contract awarded to a private firm to provide heavy equipment for the Marpi landfill operations has been extended for a month for \$54,800, *Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday. Success International Corp.'s "emergency" contract could be extended for another month or so, until an ongoing request for proposals related to the landfill is completed and a two-year contract is awarded.

**>> 6 firms so far participating in bidding process**

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), when asked for comment, said the Department of Public Works should also make room for possible procurement protest from bidders.

He said this could mean extension of the so-called "emergency" contract that lasted four months and extended for a fifth month covering January. Tebuteb is chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

"Glad to know there's at least six companies responding to the RFP, when last

year DPW said there's no one else other than Success International could provide the specialized heavy equipment for the Marpi landfill operations. I hope the process goes smoothly, that procurement rules and laws are followed. But like I said, consideration should be given on possible protests that could prolong the RFP process," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune*.

Vicente Castro, acting DPW secretary, confirmed yesterday that the department extended for another month the emer-

**See NO-BID on Page 4**



## Arctic Circle Air to launch passenger flights to Rota

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

Arctic Circle Air Services, Inc. will soon be providing passenger services within the CNMI as the company yesterday announced its

**>> As Korean investor becomes company's major stockholder**

plans to launch regular flights between Saipan and Rota, addressing transportation woes between the two islands.

Initially a cargo airline, Arctic Circle Air is offering for its debut route thrice a day, six times a week flights that are expected

to commence as early as Monday using the company's lone nine-seater aircraft.

The announcement comes after a Korean investor from Rota became a stockholder of the company.

Hee Cho, president of JMSH, LLC which owns Rota Resort & Country **See ARCTIC on Page 4**

Arctic Circle Air executives and government leaders shake hands following Thursday's news briefing announcing the start of the company's Saipan-Rota flights beginning Monday. The announcement comes as Korean businessman Hee Cho, sitting right, became a major stockholder of the company initially set up as a cargo airline.

## Neo Gold Wings interested, again, in building casino on Tinian

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Neo Gold Wings Paradise is again expressing interest in building a casino resort on Tinian, almost two years

since the Department of Public Lands cancelled its land lease for failing to pay some \$200,000 in arrears despite proposing a "\$1.6- to \$3-billion six-star" casino project.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz said

he met with officials from Neo Gold Wings in December, expressing interest again in leasing 300 hectares of public land from DPL.

"We have to think outside the box. Maybe it's time we allow investors to

build on and develop public lands agreed upon before requiring them to pay land lease, and this is just a proposal. Other countries do this and they have been successful in enticing foreign investors,"

**See NEO on Page 4**



# Local

## IN CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST FORMER AG BUCKINGHAM

# Wiseman disqualifies OAG, appoints Hasselback as special prosecutor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ruled that the Office of the Attorney General is disqualified from prosecuting both former AG Edward T. Buckingham and his suspected co-conspirators.

In a decision he issued on Aug. 17, 2012 but unsealed only on Wednesday, Wiseman granted an *ex parte* petition of the Office of the Public Auditor appointing OPA counsel George Hasselback as special prosecutor in the criminal case against Buckingham.

*Ex parte* refers to an application to the court by one of the parties to the case without

the other party being present or heard.

"The appointment of a special prosecutor is necessary to ensure the fair administration of justice," said Wiseman, adding that the scope of Hasselback's duties as special prosecutor shall be limited to the investigation and prosecution of matters or persons that are connected or relevant to the charges filed in this case.

Wiseman said OPA has statutory authority to initiate a criminal prosecution against the AG and the governor.

The judge determined that the court has the inherent power to appoint a special prosecutor when the Office of the Attorney General is disqualified because of a conflict of interest or by some other means.

He said the OAG is disqualified to prosecute the case against Buckingham due to a conflict of interest based on a personal, professional, and prior attorney-client relationship with former AG Buckingham.

Buckingham, Wiseman noted, was the AG for three years at the time the charges were filed; therefore, he has a personal and professional relationship with the regular prosecutors in the OAG.

Furthermore, the judge said, the OAG, through Civil Division chief Gil Birnrich, represented Buckingham at the first hearing in this case held on Aug. 6, 2012.

Wiseman also determined that OAG's conflict of interest spreads to the police officers and/or public officials impli-

cated in the alleged conspiracy surrounding Buckingham.

Wiseman said the tight connection among Buckingham, the OAG, and the suspected co-conspirators hinders the OAG's ability to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation of possible co-conspirators in this case.

Moreover, Wiseman said, there is a strong likelihood that the OAG's prosecution of Buckingham's co-conspirators would necessarily be harmful to Buckingham, which would violate the duty of loyalty owed to a former client.

The judge said Hasselback asserts that the OPA's ongoing investigation has revealed strong evidence that certain police officers and/or public officials unlawfully aided Buckingham in attempting to avoid service of summons process.

Last week, Hasselback submitted his recommendation to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for the extradition of Buckingham to face the criminal charges filed against him.

In a letter to Fitial, Hasselback said without a warrant from the governor for Buckingham's extradition, the case against the former attorney general cannot proceed and the "ends of justice would be frustrated as the Commonwealth's interest in seeing its laws upheld would be thwarted."

Attorney Brien Sers Nicholas, counsel for Buckingham, recently filed in Superior Court an *ex parte* request for a status conference in his criminal case.

Nicholas asked the court to

See WISEMAN on Next Page

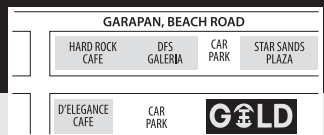
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# Ogumoro, Santos to serve on impeachment panel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

House Minority Leader George Camacho (R-Saipan) said yesterday that Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) and Rep. Teresa Santos (Ind-Rota) will be serving on the Special Committee on Impeachment that will review and make recommendations to the full House regarding

a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the seven-member Impeachment Committee, said yesterday he's "pleased that we can proceed with the minority bloc represented."

Of the seven members, five are from the leadership and two

from the minority bloc aligned with the governor or his Republican Party. House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) wanted the minority bloc to be represented on the committee.

If and when all the 16 sponsors of the impeachment resolution vote "yes," then the process would move to the Senate for trial in early February. The 16

are from the House leadership.

The Fitial administration is now bracing for an impeachment trial.

Camacho said yesterday he asked the minority bloc members whether they are willing to serve on the impeachment committee.

Santos, who accepted the opportunity to serve on the committee, said last night that among her several expectations are for the committee to "thoroughly review all the articles of impeachment and decide whether or not each article rises to the level of impeachable offense" and "to formulate or establish rules which would govern the articles of impeachment."

"Likewise, to gather all evidence and make readily available for review by members, ensuring that a committee report is completed as well as being fair

and impartial during the process," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogumoro, who served on the committee last year, initially yielded to freshman Rep. Richard Seman (R-Saipan), Camacho said. The minority leader said Seman gave way to Ogumoro since the former vice speaker has experience about the workings of an impeachment committee.

Sablan said the committee report and recommendation to the full House could wrap up by the end of January, and the process could be moved to the Senate right away for trial. This is because the impeachment panel has almost all the evidence it needs to review each of the articles of impeachment based on the work done by the previous committee, including subpoenaed documents, oral testimony, and videotaped

proceedings and hearings.

Besides Sablan, Ogumoro, and Santos, the other members of the new impeachment committee are Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (IR-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), and Rep. Chris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan).

## WISEMAN

From Page 2

set dates for Buckingham's arraignment, for the hearing of his pretrial motions, and for his trial, if one should have become necessary.

Wiseman recently denied defendant's request.

An FBI special agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Saipan international airport shortly after he and his wife left Saipan at 6am Delta flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

## BOE affirms partnership with NMC, ad-hoc committee reestablished

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The new leadership of the NMI 13th State Board of Education affirmed on Wednesday the organization's commitment in the establishment of a long-desired partnership with the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents.

Newly elected chairman Herman T. Guerrero re-established the ad-hoc committee identified by the previous board that will spearhead the collaboration with the regents. The three-member ad hoc committee will serve as official representatives of the BOE in any and all conversation with the BOR. Guerrero re-appointed Lucy Blanco-Maratita as chairman of the group with members Tanya King and Janice Tenorio.

Blanco-Maratita, during Wednesday's special meeting, disclosed that the committee remains committed in developing a memorandum of understanding with the regents which document will specifically point out the firm goals and objectives of the said partnership.

The committee chairperson reported to the board that based on her conversation with some members of the BOR, the counterpart board was reportedly still interested with the partnership with BOE. She revealed that it's the committee's plan to get a schedule for another roundtable discussion with the regents.

PSS is the islands' public educational institution that offers programs from kindergarten to high school while NMC is the only community college in the Commonwealth.

NMC offers, among other courses, a bachelor degree program for elementary education and certification for other courses such as special education and early interven-

tion programs which also benefited the school system.

It was in September last year when the two institutions of learning in the Commonwealth got together for a historic meeting at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center with the goal of clearing the "gaps" between them and tighten their collaboration for the benefit of all students.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D, earlier disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the two institutions' relationship although "healthy," needs to be improved for a better education system in the Commonwealth.

Sablan said she wants to see a "seamless transition" of PSS graduates to NMC.

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# Plea deal offered to convicted rapist facing burglary case rejected

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho has rejected as too lenient a plea deal that the government offered to a repeat offender who, while on probation after serving eight years in jail for rape and other charges, allegedly broke into a house and stole some items.

"This is not the defendant's first time. Defendant has failed to learn from his eight years of incarceration," said Camacho in rejecting the plea agreement signed by the government and defen-

dant George Blas Cruz Jr.

The judge said he is not convinced that merely 29 percent of Cruz's possible sentence of 34 years is an effective deterrent.

"The court finds the severity of the act warrants greater retribution and incarceration. The jail sentence under the proposed plea agreement fails to conform to the standards of this court and the CNMI community," Camacho said in a written order issued on Wednesday.

The judge set the jury trial for April 8, 2013.

The Office of the Attorney General charged the 31-year-old Cruz with bur-

glary, theft, criminal contempt, and disturbing the peace.

Camacho said if defendant were convicted of all the charges under the new case and sentence consecutively, he would be looking at 12 years in prison.

Camacho noted that Cruz, a repeat offender, is presently on probation after serving only eight years out of 30 years for rape, kidnapping, and robbery in 2003 and 2004 cases.

Cruz was recently released from the Department of Corrections.

The judge said Cruz was again arrested regarding an incident on or about Aug. 12 to 13, 2012, in which

he allegedly committed burglary and theft "in the middle of the night while the victims were home, an invasion of the victim's privacy and sanctity of the home."

Under the proposed plea deal, Cruz seeks to plead guilty to burglary and will be sentenced between four years to 10 years behind bars. The government agreed not to revoke the 22 years suspended sentence from the defendant's prior case.

Camacho said 10 years out of the

total amount of possible 34 years sentence is barely 29 percent.

Camacho is known for rejecting lenient plea deals and for imposing full maximum sentences.

Assistant attorney general Chemere McField represented the government. Assistant public defender Matt Meyer served as counsel for the defendant.

According to police, on or about Aug. 12 to 13 on Saipan, Cruz broke into a house and stole a Samsung phone and an Ipad.

## Homeland Security hands over 4 new vehicles, 1 gator utility vehicle to DPS

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security has handed over to the Department of Public Safety four new vehicles and one gator utility vehicle all worth \$158,000.

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security purchased the vehicles—two 2009 Nissan Xterra 4X4 and two 2012 Nissan Frontier four-door valued at \$140,000 and a gator utility vehicle worth \$18,000—through federal grants.

At a press briefing yesterday at DPS, Police Officer Jason Tarkong said a few months ago, DPS acting commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro approached the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and asked for help regarding the department's shortage of vehicles.

"DPS is really short of vehicles and they keep breaking down. We need new vehicles," Tarkong said, adding that Homeland Security stepped up and as a result, DPS acquired the new vehicles.

CNMI Office of Homeland Security special assistant Marvin K. Seman said three months ago, Ogomoro requested for a meeting to discuss the shortfall in DPS patrol cars.

"As part of our security and safe community initiative, we went ahead and partnered up with them. Through Department of Homeland Security grants we're approved to get vehicles to support the first responders so that they can address the critical needs of the community," Seman said.

Seman said a week ago they received the vehicles so they had them all marked up and installed with sirens and lighting system.

DPS Patrol Section commander Capt. Pete Leon Guerrero said most of the cars at DPS that are really up to par are the federally funded vehicles for traffic.

Leon Guerrero said the patrol vehicles are all locally funded and that they are very thankful to Homeland Security for the funding for the new vehicles.

Leon Guerrero said because of the shortage of patrol vehicles, officers respond to burglary incidents that have already occurred.

"There's no high visibility because of lack of vehicles," he pointed out.

Sgt. Arnold Seman, chief of the DPS Logistics and Support Unit and Koban Police Unit, said the gator, a specialized vehicle, will be used by police officers assigned at Koban Police to patrol the tourist district.

Seman said the other vehicles will be assigned to patrol and traffic officers.

## ARCTIC

From Page 1

Club and several other properties in Guam, revealed in a news briefing held at Laolao Bay Golf Resort that he now owns majority of the shares of Arctic Circle.

Cho told *Saipan Tribune* that he already signed documents pertaining to his shares with the airline company.

According to Cho, having regular flights between Saipan and Rota is "very meaningful" as the lack of direct flights have caused suffering and inconvenience to residents of the southernmost island of the CNMI.

Traveling to Rota would normally take less than an hour. Since airline companies stopped servicing the Saipan-Rota route, however, the trip would now take six hours to an entire day given that passengers have to transit to Guam where they catch their flight to reach their final destination.

"It's a very sad story, but we are now very pleased to start our Saipan-Rota services," Cho told reporters during Thursday's event attended by Arctic Circle Air executives, Rota leaders, and other elected officials.

Cho noted that ticket price per passenger only costs \$179, with one allowed baggage weighing up to 50 lbs, making Arctic Circle Air a low-cost passenger airline in contrast to other carriers that offer today's fare rate of \$219 per person.

"Unless fuel prices drastically go up, we intend to keep this price for good whether we're making a profit or not," said Cho, adding that commuters need not make any reservations when they want to get in the plane to Rota.

He said that even with the demand

from tour operators for Rota flights, Arctic Circle Air's passenger services will prioritize primarily the local residents, and charter flights for tourists will be accommodated once the company's operations expand.

Cho disclosed that they plan to increase the frequency of flights and develop more routes in the coming months, saying that they plan to purchase up to 10 19-seater planes worth approximately \$70 million "as fast as possible."

The additional planes, he said, aim to provide flights between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam.

"Our ultimate goal is to make these four islands in the Marianas as one," added Cho.

### Economic prosperity

Arctic Circle Air's Tony Pellegrino said he is proud to be working with Cho and that the availability of passenger flights only several months after their start-up is "beyond expectations."

According to Pellegrino, it has always been the vision of Arctic Circle Air to unite the islands by serving as a bridge that brings economic prosperity to the Commonwealth.

With the company's launch of passenger services, Pellegrino said that 2013 will be a notable year for the Northern Marianas since it can now work on attracting even just a small fraction of tourists visiting Guam.

To this end, Cho said he recently met with the Guam leadership to assure them that the CNMI will not deprive its neighbor of their tourist shares. Instead, the Northern Marianas will only offer other options to tourists by giving them the opportunity to do a side trip during their Guam vacation by visiting Saipan, Tinian, or Rota.

Cho also emphasized that having a dependable means of transportation within the Commonwealth would lead to the rapid growth of the tourism industry, stimulating the islands' economy.

He called on lawmakers not to play politics and make the people of Rota, who have suffered enough, as their priority.

Island leaders present at the event expressed their support for Arctic Circle Air's latest bid to provide air transportation initially between Saipan and Rota.

"This is an opportunity that every leader must support. I stand ready to support anything that would contribute to our community," said Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola.

Mendiola said the Saipan-Rota flights would help make up for the many lost opportunities in the tourism industry which is the CNMI's main industry linked to its economic growth.

For Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), this kind of commitment is "long overdue" and is a major opportunity to assist the island where many challenges abound given its isolated location.

"This is a good beginning that would lessen the stress of the Rota people," she said, adding that she will back up any legislation that would support this venture.

Senate President Jude Hofschneider (R-Rota), for his part, said Arctic Circle Air's announcement would improve inter-island transportation, reviving an economy that has long been stagnated and enabling the islands to take advantage of the upswing in tourist arrivals.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), meanwhile, urged those who haven't visited Rota to "make good use" of the new flights and see in person what the island has to offer.

## NO-BID

From Page 1

agency contract with Success International for \$54,800, to give ample time for the procurement process to be completed. He was referring to an RFP issued in December, and whose deadline for submission of proposals is early next week.

Antonio Camacho, DPW secretary nominee and director of DPW's Technical Services Division, separately said as of yesterday, six companies have expressed interest in responding to the RFP including Success International, which holds the current emergency contract.

"This RFP is requesting more services from the proposers including maintenance of the landfill, and not just providing heavy equipment. So we are looking at a more costly contract than the emergency contract we have right now because of additional services we are asking for," he said.

Camacho said DPW is seeking a two-year contract.

"For any business, they will have to invest in equipment and one year contract is not enough to recoup their investment. For planning purposes, one year contract is not appropriate for this kind of contract so we are doing two years contract at a time," he added.

Camacho, however, said that the government is looking at waste-to-energy program that will minimize the debris being sent to the Marpi landfill and therefore decrease the operational costs at the site.

Jun Miao Guo, more known as "Henry Miao" and owner of Success International, confirmed yesterday that they are responding to the RFP. He said his company is able to provide the services required as well as additional ones indicated in the RFP. DPW's Camacho said besides Success International, the other interested bidders are GPPC, JG Sablan, U.S. Fanter, RMIC, and Tang's Corp.

Dennis Tupas, project manager at GPPC, said they have asked DPW for a two-week extension to respond to the RFP but that request has yet to be granted. Tupas said there are a lot of factors to consider in responding to the RFP, including the type of equipment. The sole-source \$229,000 Marpi landfill heavy equipment contract was

initially reported at the height of the impeachment proceedings against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial last year. At the time, there were concerns that Fitial supporters may have been among the reasons behind the no-bid contract award.

Success International's owner, Jun Miao Guo or "Henry Miao" had said he got the contract because his company is the only one that has the required equipment. He had said he is no longer doing business with Tony Rasiang, one of the governor's staunchest supporters. He said he has never had any business ties with Felix Nogis, another staunch ally of Fitial.

Success International Corp., registered as a CNMI business since May 5, 2006, is doing business as M&R Construction/Contractor, as well as Success Auto Repair Shop and SARS Towing Service that used to provide services to the Department of Public Safety among other clients.

The firm's initial four-month emergency contract that expired on Dec. 31 requires a monthly payment of \$54,800 or \$219,000 contract price, plus \$10,000 in mobilization cost for a total contract price of \$229,000.

DPW awarded the emergency contract to Success International when the department's previous contractor, Pacific Drilling Ltd., informed them that it is no longer renewing its contract shortly before their contract was to expire.

Without specialized heavy equipment such as a rolling compactor that only Success International could provide, trash dumped at the Marpi landfill couldn't be compacted and would be easily filled to capacity, among other things. This was DPW's main justification for the award of an emergency, no-bid contract to Success International.

At the time, the Office of the Public Auditor was asked to investigate the sole-source contract award.

DPW has worked on an RFP for the Marpi landfill heavy equipment and operations for at least four months. The RFP was published only in December and the deadline to submit proposals is Jan. 22, CNMI time.

"And for us to have six interested companies so far is good. If there's competition, it could bring down the cost to us. There will be an evaluation committee to evaluate the background and qualification and operational plan," DPW's Camacho added.

## NEO

From Page 1

Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune* during a supposed meeting of the CNMI Military Integration Management Committee on Tuesday.

Neo Gold Wings' proposed casino project has been among planned developments in the CNMI to fizzle

out in recent period. However, some local officials have always had reservations about Neo Gold Wings' ambitious \$1.6- to \$3-billion six-star casino resort project because for years, it has failed to get financial support and come up with detailed plans. This is at least the third time Neo Gold Wings is going to pursue the project, since the initial groundbreaking in July 2009.



## IN MARATITA'S LAWSUIT OVER \$190.8M PPA

# 'To the best of my ability' in affidavit prompts judge to vacate order

BY FERGIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita's (IR-Saipan) language "to the best of my ability" in her affidavit has prompted Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman to vacate his order to show cause against Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and co-defendants in the lawsuit over the alleged illegal \$190.8-million power purchase agreement deal.

In an order issued on Wednesday, Wiseman noted that the Maratita affidavit reads in relevant part, "I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statements are true and correct to the best of my ability..."

The judge said the qualifier "to the best of my ability," in the signatory line, is inconsistent with the statute and undermines the veracity of the statements therein.

"It is therefore improper for the court to rely on it," said Wiseman, concluding that without the affidavit there is no factual basis for issuance of an order to show cause.

The judge cited a previous Superior Court decision, striking an affidavit containing "to the best of my knowledge," language.

Wiseman said in that ruling, the court reasoned that the statute required an "unequivocal declaration."

On Aug. 31, 2012, Wiseman granted the request of Maratita and co-plaintiffs the Senate and then representative and now Sen. Ray Anthony Yumul (IR-Saipan) to issue a preliminary injunction, which enjoined Fitial and co-defendants from "continuing, pursuing, and/or

performing on the power purchase agreement."

On Dec. 3, 2012, Maratita and co-plaintiffs filed a motion for an order to show cause why defendants should not be held in contempt for violating the preliminary injunction.

Plaintiffs' motion was accompanied by Maratita's declaration.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Ramon Quichocho, alleged that it as on Dec. 3, 2012—two weeks after the injunction order from court—when the Delaware-based Saipan Development LLC officials arrived on Saipan and met with Fitial to discuss the power purchase agreement and other projects.

On Dec. 6, 2012, Wiseman issued an order to show cause. Fitial filed an objection to the issuance of the order to show cause based on the timeframe set for motions.

On Dec. 12, 2012, Wiseman issued an order providing Fitial and co-defendants with an opportunity to file any opposition to the motion for an order to show cause on or before Dec. 17, 2012.

The defendants subsequently filed an opposition to the motion. Plaintiffs also filed their reply.

At the order to show cause hearing last Jan. 2, Wiseman clarified his intent to treat the proceeding as a hearing on the motion for an order to show cause, rather than a contempt hearing.

Fitial and co-defendants Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas contested the factual basis of the issuance of the order to show cause. They argued that the Maratita affidavit

fails to properly allege that it is "true and correct," in violation of 7 CMC § 3305.

Wiseman agreed with the defendants.

Early this week, Maratita and co-plaintiffs amended their lawsuit against Fitial, former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, CUC, and Saipan Development LLC.

Plaintiffs' counsel Quichocho said they want a court-ordered permanent injunction to stop the agreement.

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## A DAY AFTER 18TH HOUSE'S OATH-TAKING

## Constitutional convention, Article 12 amendment, 13 other bills pre-filed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan) pre-filed a bill presenting a question to voters whether to convene another constitutional convention to propose amendments to the CNMI Constitution, as well as

a legislative initiative changing the 25 percent blood quantum requirement to only "at least some degree" of Chamorro or Carolinian blood or a combination of these, in order to be considered a person of Northern Marianas descent and therefore can own land in the CNMI.

Ogumoro's House Bill 18-5

on the conventional convention and House Legislative Initiative 18-1 on Article 12 are among the 15 bills, local bills, resolutions, joint resolutions and initiative pre-filed since at least a day after Monday's inaugural session of the 18th Legislature. Article 12 is the land alienation provision of the CNMI Constitution.

These are in addition to the rules of procedures resolution that the House adopted during the day of the inauguration. That same day, Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and other leadership members pre-filed a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 18 allegations of corruption, felony and neglect of duty.

Ogumoro also pre-filed House Joint Resolution 18-1, requesting the U.S. Congress to return to the people of Northern Marianas descent the waters and submerged lands surrounding the CNMI from the mean low tide mark to 200 miles.

"The waters and submerged lands rightfully belong to persons of Northern Marianas descent. Therefore, we must fight hard for the return of the 200 miles of submerged lands and waters and nothing less," Ogumoro said in her speech during the inauguration.

The former vice speaker also pre-filed HB 18-6, establishing

a Northern Marianas Descent Institute, a non-profit public corporation for persons of Northern Marianas descent that will establish a protocol and job training program.

The other pre-filed measures include:

■ Rep. Ray Tebuteb's (IR-Saipan) HB 18-1, ratifying the adoption of the 2009 editions of the International Building

Code, International Fire Code, related construction codes as amended, and provide for a task force to develop a new CNMI building code council;

■ House Minority Leader George Ca-

macho's HB 18-2, raising the CNMI's hotel occupancy tax from 10 percent to 15 percent;

■ Rep. Edmund Villagomez's (Cov-Saipan) HB 18-3, strengthening provisions regarding sex crimes and domestic violence, after the same bill was vetoed by the governor during the previous Legislature;

■ Tebuteb's HB 18-4, reallocating funding from the Managaha landing and user fee trust account;

■ Rep. Janet Maratita's (IR-Saipan) HB 18-7, requiring 100 percent of the items in snack and beverage vending machines in government facilities to meet certain nutritional guidelines;

■ Maratita's HB 18-8, re-appropriating up to \$286,786 of the remaining \$140 million bond within the Commonwealth Development Authority to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.;

■ Rep. Trenton Conner's (R-Tinian) House Local Bill 18-1, appropriating \$40,000 in poker machine license fees on Tinian for Tinian patients and other programs.

■ Conner's 18-2, re-appropriating \$36,948 from previous laws to go towards the Tinian Municipal Scholarship program;

■ Rep. Teresita Santos's (Ind-Rota) HLB 18-3, appropriating \$45,000 in poker machine license fees on Rota for Rota patients; and

■ Rep. Antonio Agulto's (IR-Saipan) HLB 18-4, re-appropriating fund balance of \$200,344 from a Saipan local law for various projects in Precinct 5.



Ogumoro

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# New CT scan at CHC now fully operational

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Juan N. Babauta announced yesterday that the radiology department's brand new 16 Slice CT scanner has finally been installed and will be fully operational beginning this week.

"This is really good news for our patients at the Commonwealth Health Center. Now, the quality of the images (x-ray) is going to be much better than before. Hopefully, this will translate into better patient care," he said yesterday.

The full operation of the new

## Malae back as A. Samoa power authority chief

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Abe Utu Malae is now back at his old post in American Samoa, serving as the chief of the island's power authority.



Malae

Malae's newest appointment takes effect this week after he attended his first official meeting last Monday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

It was learned that the new American Samoa Power Authority board has moved to appoint a new executive director to see progress and significant change in the power authority's operations. Malae reportedly was the prime choice for the position.

Malae once headed the territory's power authority, among the many posts he held in the past.

Malae resigned from CUC in May 2012 due to what many believed was result of a "difference of opinion" with the Fitial administration.

During his tenure as CUC chief, many progress and developments were noted under his leadership including improvements in the islands' water supply, the stable power condition in the CNMI, and progress in meeting stipulated order requirements.

In August last year, Malae told the Fitial administration he would leave CUC by the end of March 2012 because he's running for governor in American Samoa in the November 2012 elections. Two months later, Malae said he was no longer running for the post and will be staying with CUC.

Besides heading ASPA in the past, Malae also worked for the Development Bank of American Samoa, LBJ Hospital, Port Administration and Public Works, among others.

Malae has worked within the government of American Samoa for over 25 years.

equipment was also announced to the staff by hospital services administrator Karen Buettner. In her memorandum, Buettner credited the well-organized and concerted effort of equipment contractor Oka Pacific Inc., Siemens Medical, and the hospital's maintenance department and radiology department personnel. The new scanner was shipped to Saipan last Jan. 3 and formally received on Jan. 8 by the corporation.

"Our new Siemens Somatom Sensation 16-Slice Computed Tomography System is now in place and fully functional.

All routine and emergency CT exams are now available to the medical staff and CHCC patients," Buettner's memorandum reads, adding that those interested for scheduling can contact the radiology department.

In a visit at the radiology department, unit manager Dan Harding told *Saipan Tribune* that the newly installed equipment will significantly increase the department's capacity. From CT exams of up to 75 monthly, the 16 Slice CT scanner will double the capacity.

Harding said that CHC had seen the progression of the im-

portant equipment—from first generation CT scan all the way to 5th generation—which he described is a major investment for the corporation.

"From single slice to 16-slice scanner, we've seen the CHC progression from using first to fifth generation of CT scan. We're very proud to have it because this is a major investment for CHC and will bring great

benefits for the CNMI," he said.

A CT scan is a computerized tomography scan. It uses x-rays and a computer to create detailed images of the inside of your body. In September last year, Medicare found the malfunctioning CT scan and a broken portable x-ray unit in the hospital during its survey visit. This was among the major deficiencies cited by the Medicare

which will decide on "Condition of Participation" of the hospital next month.

Besides the new CT scan, it was also announced that the general electric advantage legacy digital radiology system (DRS), which is housed in the radiology department, is also now fully functional. All fluoroscopy exams previously performed on this system are now available under the direct supervision of the requesting physician.

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## 6 students win in Mathcourt regionals, advance to nationals

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Six students emerged the big winners in the Public School System's Mathcourt regional competition for high school during the rigorous rounds Saturday at Kagman High School.

The six winners, comprised of three students from Marianas Baptist Academy and three students from Saipan Southern High School, are the official members of the CNMI team which will advance to Mathleague.org national contest in Kansas City, Missouri on May 17 this year.

Regional Mathcourt winners included gold medalist Won Woo Choi, silver medalist Ji Hoon Choi, both are students of MBA. Hailed bronze medal winner is Hyun Bin Hwang, fourth placer Jun Seo Park, and fifth placer Hye Young Oh who are all from SSSH. Named sixth place winner and included in Team CNMI is MBA's Kanata Omori.

Named alternates to the team are Beibei Chen of Agape Christian School; Dong Hee Im of Grace Christian Academy; Jae Min Youm of GCA; John Robert Tam of MBA; Liu Renrong of GCA; and Won Jun Kim of MBA.

According to Mathcourt



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The winners of the recently concluded PSS Mathcourt regional competition for high school gather for a group photo after the awarding rites at Kagman High School last Saturday. The group will advance to Mathleague.org national competition to be held in Kansas City, Missouri on May 17, 2013.

high school division coordinator Dora Miura contenders in the regional contest have gone through the following categories: team round, sprint, target, and relay round.

For the school team, MBA's Team Wow! garnered the gold medal, while SSSH's Team HAH was named recipient of the silver awards.

Miura said that there were 36 students who competed in the regional Mathcourt com-

petition of which 33 were from high school and three medalists from the middle school regionals.

The CNMI Mathcourt competition is a series of meets that occur throughout the school year. At each meet, several tests are offered to measure the mathematical achievement of students at every grade level and award those students showing the highest levels of mastery at each

level. The competition began in 2005 in order to promote mathematics in the CNMI. The elementary and middle school competitions were centered on the CNMI PSS mathematics benchmarks. In the high school division, the focus had been on mental Math and topics taken from several textbooks. Since then, the competition has gone through several changes in terms of the focus and style of the questions.

## Empty Vessel thanks supporters of garage sale



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MaryAnn sells Avon products during Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation's garage sale.

Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation thanks its supporters for their donations and for shopping at its garage sale every Saturday.

The ministry said they are happy to see families shop for less and is thanking the generosity of those who have donated or have volunteered their time to Empty Vessel.

Empty Vessel said those who want to donate items can drop them off at the ABA Building across Bali Fashion and EZ Market, next to Monica Furni-

ture store.

The ministry accepts clothing, shoes, and household goods and request items that are in good condition. For those who would like to give a monetary donation, please write a check payable to Empty Vessel Ministry and mail, P.O. Box 10003 PMB 4 Saipan, MP 96950.

"Through your gifts and donated items, we are turning them into good use. Low-income families can receive free or affordable items. We are still



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Director Ranguse of YWAM delivers donations.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Palauan pastor donates clothes to Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation.

inviting interested vendors to come and sell their product in our building every Saturday. The space is available for a donation of \$15. We thank AA enterprise Saipan for their continuous support in our work. Come and check them out for available, affordable rental

space," the ministry said in a statement.

Visit the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation Facebook page or its website at [www.emptyvesselministry.org](http://www.emptyvesselministry.org) or call its office at 235-2340 or 483-0162 for more information. (PR)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 18, 1999

### CPA presses ahead with port fees hike

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will meet with the Legislature and airline executives this week to explain the urgency of carrying out a rate increase at the airport so that it can repay its \$53 million debt. Carlos H. Salas, executive director, said he will discuss with officials of Continental Micronesia and Northwest Airlines on Guam the planned rate hike. A similar meeting was also held with Japan Airlines executives. A week ago, CPA officials led by board chairman Roman S. Palacios talked to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio seeking his support on the rate increase. Amid mounting losses from its operation, Salas had expressed concern that the ports authority will not be able to meet the required 1.25 percent debt service requirement. If the ports authority fails to implement an increase, it will be forced to seek subsidy from the government to be able to pay for its obligations, he said.

### House acts on retirement bill

The House of Representatives has set in motion an administration's request to remove a retirement bonus given to civil service employees in fear the benefits may throw the cash-strapped government into deeper financial woes. A bill grandfathering those employees eligible to receive the bonus passed the House last Friday as members assured recent retirees that they will receive their money once the local revenue collections improve in the next few years. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, author of House Bill 11-359, said the proposed measure will guarantee payment of the bonus equivalent to 30 percent of the employee's annual salary at the end of his government service.

Jan. 18, 2000

### Probe on canceled 80MW power project mullied

An investigation may be conducted by lawmakers to look into the cancellation by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation of Saipan's 80-megawatt power plant after the government corporation spent over half-a-million dollars for procurement of a project that took nearly three years. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes at the same time questioned the study on the island's power load that was undertaken by independent consultants hired by CUC based on information the utility firm had provided. Asking utility officials to justify expenditures of at least \$500,000 only to junk the project, the outspoken senator raised the possibility of the probe to determine who should be held liable for what he claimed as "wasted taxpayers' money."

### Debt-to-equity conversion for CUC's \$107M loan eyed

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is hoping to retire its debt amounting close to \$107 million through a plan which will be announced by next month as part of the efforts to forge ahead with the new power project proposal for Saipan. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez has been tasked by the board to develop the scheme to wipe out its mounting financial obligations to the Commonwealth Development Authority. According to CDA Board Chairman John S. Tenorio, the government's chief lending agency will propose a debt-to-equity conversion which will be more acceptable to them than other options, including debt forgiveness.

Jan. 18, 2001

### CPA probes oil leakage at airport

Two key agencies have deployed a full scale investigation in search for the culprit behind the estimated 6,000 gallons of jet fuel that has leaked at the Saipan International Airport grounds. The Division of Environmental Quality has signaled the Commonwealth Ports Authority to start investigation of the incident after receiving reports indicating possibilities of a potential contamination problem at the airport. DEQ issued a Notice of Violation, ordering CPA to evaluate the extent of the contamination, if any, and develop a cleanup action plan. Acting DEQ Director Antonio I. Deleon Guerrero said an initial investigation from Mobil Oil Marianas Inc. reveals that the leak occurred from a faulty gasket in a fuel line between a storage tank operated by the company and the airport refueling facilities.

### NMI keeps close watch of Asian economies

As economic uncertainties cloud major countries in Asia from which the CNMI source its biggest tourism markets, business analysts are predicting yet another year of slow business activities for the Northern Marianas. In preparation to the anticipated persistence of low economic output this year, the Commonwealth Development Authority has started taking aggressive measures to assist local entrepreneurs weather dwindling business turnout due to weaker consumer confidence. Business experts at the development authority have been mobilized to conduct counseling sessions with the agency's clients who may be in search for ways to survive the economic contraction, thereby, continue paying their loans from the CDA.

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 21st birthday to my Chamorro Saipan sister Effierose Hope Utoafili Santos who celebrated her birthday last Jan. 11! You are very blessed my dear friend! I love you and thank God for another year! Cheers from the islands! Greetings from Valyn and the San Nicolas family, Santos family, extended families, and friends! Have a blast!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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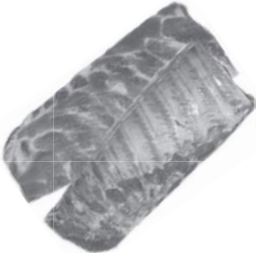
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**\$9<sup>49</sup>**  
1 GAL.

Kikkoman  
Soy Sauce  
**\$4<sup>39</sup>**  
1.6 L.

King Chef  
Vegetable  
Oil 5gal  
**\$31<sup>99</sup>**

Kool-Aid Jammers/  
Caprisun  
**\$2<sup>99</sup>**  
BOX

Sunkist  
**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
CASE

Ruby Kist Orange  
& Apple Juice  
**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
64oz.

**| FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN | FROZEN |**

Bar S Jumbo  
Franks  
**\$1<sup>19</sup>**

Bar S Ham  
**\$18<sup>99</sup>**  
10LBS.

Bar S Bacon  
**\$3<sup>25</sup>**

Ground  
Beef  
**\$11<sup>99</sup>**  
5LBS.

Chamorro  
Sausage  
**\$4<sup>49</sup>**  
10LBS.

Tilapia  
**99¢**  
/LB.

Milk Fish  
**\$1<sup>39</sup>**  
/LB.

Sea Wave Calamari  
**\$1<sup>89</sup>**  
16oz.

**| PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE | PRODUCE |**

Celo Apple  
**\$3<sup>99</sup>**  
/BAG

Orange  
**\$1<sup>09</sup>**  
LB.

Honeydew/  
Cantaloupe  
**99¢**  
LB.

Korean Pear  
**\$2<sup>99</sup>**  
LB.

Broccoli  
**\$1<sup>49</sup>**  
LB.

Onion  
**69¢**  
LB.

Potato  
**79¢**  
LB.

Cabbage  
**99¢**  
LB.

Garlic  
**\$1<sup>25</sup>**  
5 PCS.

U.S. X-Large  
Eggs  
**\$2<sup>29</sup>**  
1 DOZ.

**| FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG | FAMILY BAG |**

Stew Chicken	\$5.99	Pork Chop	\$11.99
Chicken Leg Qtr	\$4.99	Pork Spareribs	\$6.99
Chicken Nuggets	\$11.99	Pork Butt Steak	\$9.99
Chicken Wings	\$12.99	Beef Ribeye	\$15.99
Turkey Tail	\$6.99	Beef Stew	\$12.99
Mackerel Fish	\$5.99	Beef Shank	\$11.99
Mackerel Pike	\$6.49	Beef Feet	\$7.99
Pork Hock	\$8.50	Beef Shortribs	\$15.99
Pork Adobo	\$9.99	Ox Tail	\$15.99
Pork Bellies	\$11.99	Smoked Ham Steak	\$12.99

**| NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD | NON-FOOD |**

Dawn  
Dishwashing  
Soap  
**\$8<sup>99</sup>**  
90 oz.

Joy Ultra  
**\$1<sup>49</sup>**  
12.5 OZ.  
**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
90 OZ.

Purex  
**\$4<sup>49</sup>**  
50 OZ.

Gain Liquid  
**\$6<sup>49</sup>**  
50 OZ.  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**  
100 OZ.

Gain Powder  
**\$15<sup>99</sup>**  
102 Loads  
**\$16<sup>99</sup>**  
120 Loads

Charmin Ultra  
Strong Tissue  
**\$6<sup>99</sup>**  
24 Rolls

Head & Shoulders  
2 in 1 with  
Almond oil  
**\$4<sup>99</sup>**  
23 OZ.  
Shampoo  
**\$7<sup>99</sup>**

Suave Shampoo  
and  
Conditioner  
**2 for  
\$3<sup>00</sup>**

Bounty  
Paper  
Towel  
**\$18<sup>99</sup>**  
15 Rolls

Charmin Basic  
Toilet Paper  
**\$7<sup>99</sup>**  
12 ROLLS  
**\$14<sup>99</sup>**  
24 ROLLS

Foam Plates  
**\$3<sup>29</sup>**  
50 CT  
**\$7<sup>99</sup>**  
125 CT

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 13Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Clearing Beijing's air

Ever wonder what life in the United States would be like without a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency? The people of China have gotten a whiff of what happens when there are minimal pollution controls, and they are choking on it.

That the air in Beijing is badly polluted is not exactly a new development, but this is: Now, it's gotten so bad that the complaints are showing up in state-run media where the crisis is not only recognized but the need to be open and honest about it is, too.

Photographs coming out of the Chinese capital tell the story—air pollution so thick and toxic that it looks like a bad science fiction movie with some kind of zombies or monsters the only missing element. Last Saturday, the U.S. Embassy's rooftop air pollution monitor recorded a 755 on a scale that goes to 500, hitting a level of toxicity as much as 40-fold above levels recommended by the World Health Organization. At least one manufacturer and all construction sites were shut down to try to reduce the amount of particulates in the air.

Going outside has required wearing a surgical mask. The number of people going into the Peking University People's Hospital emergency room suffering a heart attack doubled over the weekend. Children and the elderly were warned to stay indoors.

What accounts for this deadly smog? The same sorts of sources of pollution that can plague areas of the U.S.: coal-burning power plants, vehicle emissions and manufacturing. The problem for Beijing is made worse by its geographic circumstances and weather that trapped the pollution around the city for days.

China's full-throttle growth policies have obviously made conditions in that country among the worst on the planet. An estimated 16 of the most air-polluted cities in the world are located in China. But that's always been downplayed by the government and the state-controlled media as the equivalent of a "bad fog."

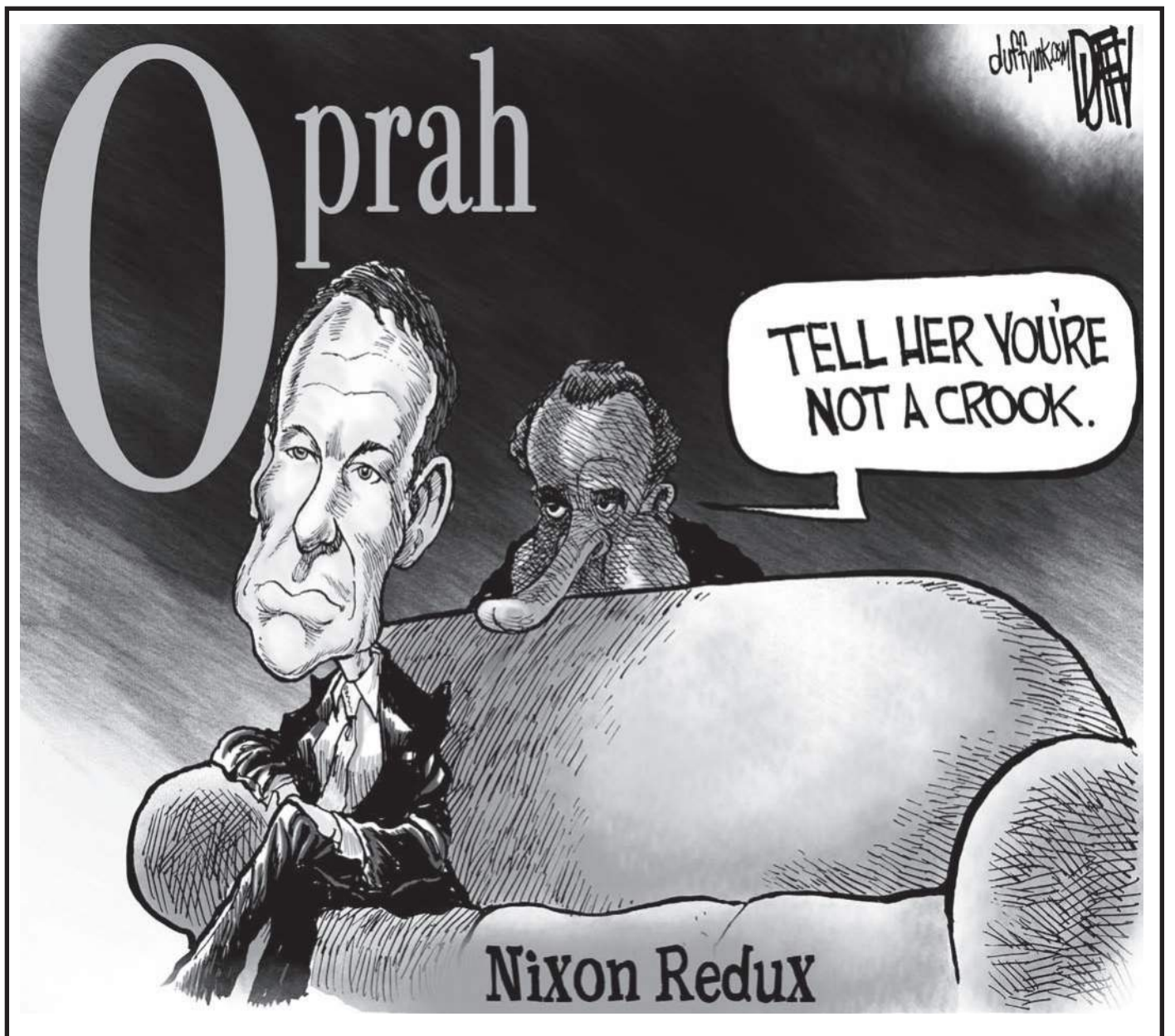
Not so this time around. In recent days, several state-run newspapers and websites have been reporting much more candidly on the pollution and the health problems associated with it. In an editorial, the Global Times warned that the development trends can't continue and that the government should publish "truthful environmental data to the public."

That call for transparency is a welcome development with significant ramifications. The Chinese policies aren't just harming the country's own citizens. The rise of Chinese coal-powered plants has been a prime source of additional greenhouse gases and has contributed mightily to global warming that poses a threat to all.

Yet even in the U.S., the EPA has faced considerable opposition over the regulatory agency's efforts to curb the pollution spewing out of coal-fired power plants. Last summer, a federal appeals court tossed out the EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule that protected downwind states from such pollution when it blows in from elsewhere. That was particularly bad news for Maryland where a significant portion of pollutants like sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide come from coal-fired Midwestern power plants.

Meanwhile, House Republicans continue to complain that the EPA has been too aggressive in its regulation of power plant emissions and its regulations have harmed the coal industry. Outgoing EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson recently observed that this position—standing up for polluters over the people—puts them at odds with the views of a majority of Americans.

See CLEARING on Next Page



## It's flu season again

Once again, the flu is a big story. This time around much of the concern seems to be focused on the U.S. side of the globe instead of the Asian side. New York, for example, claimed headlines about a flu "epidemic."

Meanwhile, here is what a friend said: "Once I lived on Saipan for a few years my immune system got toughened up by tropical germs. After that, I never get sick."

Well, why not? I like home-spun theories. They seem so much cozier than the store-bought ones.

So what can we do to fend off the flu?

My context is the household level. As for the medical level, there is, of course, a vaccine available, but even when we get the vaccine it might be a good idea to keep our guard up on other fronts as well.

Of course, in these emotional times, the flu, like any other topic, inspires heated opinions and lots of finger-wagging.

For example, I heard an American radio show that featured the flu as a topic of controversy. It occurred to me that the show's pundits seemed more interested in proving themselves right than in providing any objective analysis of the matter.

After a half-hour of hearing the rhetoric fly back and forth, I realized I was probably getting dumber, not smarter, about the topic. Nobody was educating me; they were too busy trying to convince me.

So I sort of fall back to stuff I hear from friends, including a couple of doctors, and none of these folks seem like they're trying to defend some rhetorical turf.

One thing I've heard is that zinc is a good anti-germ agent when taken in pills that dissolve in the mouth. My wife and I have taken it over the span of several years now, generally when we suspect a bug is trying to get its germly little hooks in us. We think it works, but we'd never try to convince anyone that it does.

I do believe the old school advice about keeping your hands washed and clean, but that's hard to do outside of the house. For example, on Saipan, you'll note, many restaurant restrooms don't even have hot water at the sink taps.

Anyway, like many people who travel a lot and dine out a lot, I have fallen into the habit of toting a tiny little bottle of hand sanitizing gel. I only use it a few times a week, but the bottles are quickly exhausted.

Airhead that I am, the dollar signs started adding up when I'd buy these little tiny bottles for a couple of bucks a pop at the checkout counter.

By ED STEPHENS JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed at [EdStephensJr.com](http://EdStephensJr.com). His column runs every Friday.

So in order to cut back on expenses, I finally bought a bulk package made by Purell. I don't remember the cost, but I know it was well under \$20. The package included two big bottles (8-oz.) and five little tiny ones (1-oz.). That's well over one year's supply for me.

My gig is to recharge the little tiny bottles from the big bottles.

For those of you who have taken a similar approach, I want to mention a little trick I found. Everybody else will be bored to tears over it, so I'll pardon myself in advance.

The trick is necessary because the big bottles use pump dispensers. Yes, these pumps are a convenient way to deal a dab for your hands. However, the pumps do not interface with the little tiny bottles well when you're trying to refill them, since the gel is too viscous to cooperate. The result is a big mess.

And now for the trick.

The trick is to get some medium-sized bottles (2-oz.), which, like the tiny little bottles, are just squeeze (not pump) dispensed. The medium-sized bottle has a neck large enough to be easily filled by the big bottle's pump. Then, in turn, the medium bottle can recharge the tiny little bottle, since the medium bottle's cap acts as a nozzle that shoots a fine enough stream under high enough pressure to get the job done.

Neat, eh?

But before we get all smug about this, I'll note that the label on the Purell bottle I'm looking at says that the product is used to "help reduce bacteria on the skin." The flu, however, is a viral gig, not a bacterial one. So, once again, we're stuck having to do our own research, or make our own guesses, or flip our own coins.

If the flu story doesn't interest you, don't worry. It will be back next year. And maybe next year Asia, not New York, will host the headlines. I'm sort of used to that. But I guess we'll have to wait and see.



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# Inauguration Day USA

**By JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.*



The east portico of the U.S. Congress in 1905 on the Inauguration Day of Theodore Roosevelt. Quite literally, members of the audience were hanging from the rafters in an evidently posed photo.

Since 1789, after the revolutionary General George Washington refused to be King George but consented to join the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and subsequently got elected President under the new constitution, more than fifty inaugural events have transpired transferring the reins of power from one elected official to another without the coercion of a bullet or the show of force through the barrel of a gun.

That might be inconsequential in the life of republic relatively young in the history of civilizational journeys, but if there is any remarkable trademark in the quality of the continuing experiment in democratic governance that the United States of America represents, it is that the only volley of gunpowder heard during the day is that which emanates from the 21-gun salute to the rhythm of *Hail to the Chief!*

GW was sworn-in to office at the Federal Hall in New York City. In 1800 when the Capitol became the Federal seat of government Thomas Jefferson was sworn-in at the premises of the United States Congress. The event itself was unremarkable at the beginning. The ceremony was held at the Senate chambers until Andrew Jackson moved it outside to the East portico, subsequently moved to the West end facing the lawn and the Washington Mall.

The festivities accompanying the swearing-in ceremony became a ten-day affair, five days before, and five days after, of galas and balls. This was curtailed when former President Lyndon Johnson died two days after the inauguration of Richard Nixon's second

term, and the Capitol had to be prepared for the official wake.

The inauguration has taken in a more proletarian than royal tone. Tickets to affairs are made available on a first come, first serve basis. The two publicized glitches in this week's Inauguration event were a ball where ticketmaster prematurely sold tickets, and the other, where the organizing committee was chastised for using the word "champagne" on a California bubbly toast.

The official Inauguration date of Jan. 20 was pegged by the 20th amendment to the Constitution, save when it falls on a Sun-



Scene of the January 20, 2009 swearing-in of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America at the West end of the Capitol building.

day, a private swearing-in takes place, and the public swearing-in conducted Monday the following day.

Privately on Sunday and publicly on Monday, President-elect Barack Obama will again repeat the following words: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The symbology of the inauguration of the most powerful office in the country is not lost in the small gesture of the ceremony being held at the Capitol. U.S. Highway 1 begins and ends at the Capitol. Washington, D.C.'s geography emanates from that center, not 16th St. and Pennsylvania Ave. of the White House.

Since Thomas Jefferson, the parade route after the ceremony is between the Capitol and the White House on Pennsylvania Ave. President Jimmy Carter and wife Rosalynn in 1977 walked that distance to dramatize the common sense, pedestrian, non-monarchical, and practical nature of the office. The practice has since been discouraged for security reasons.

Saipan is a few time zones removed from the winter whiplash of the Potomac. But being a strategic military location by Federal designation, its administration falls directly under the executive office, and to the President as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. This is not an issue of political pride as it is a matter of practical praxis.

Inauguration day in Washington, D.C. inaugurates the sunshine in this part of the western Pacific as well.

# Mighty tentacles of corruption

With public trust basically lost in the conduct of government, consistently strangled by the silent and powerful tentacles of corruption, leaves the fate of our people in the troubling fantasyland of uncertainty.

But the multitude has stated decisively and conclusively it wants a government of laws reinstated so we rebuild our democratic institutions once more. Its sentiment overflowed with a powerful well-spring of resentment against corruption declaring, "No Mas!"

This includes any and all corrupt transactions under this administration needing dire heavy duty cleansing. I am alluding to certain government contracts, land leases, and projects requiring judicious and thorough review to ensure it's in the "best interest of the NMI".

Out of curiosity, I've peeked into the review process on some land leases that, unfortunately, is riddled with negligence, abuse, fraud, and breach of fiduciary duty both by Attorney General's Office and the Department of Public Lands. They simply failed to assuage protecting the public interest on a given quarry area per a lease agreement.

It rendered lame my suspicion that corruption is history. In fact, its tentacles has spread to a politically connected circle of friends whose only interest is their pecuniary gain (greed) no longer mind-

ful of the laws of the NMI or the well-being of our people.

**Subsidy against public interest**

For instance, a certain firm was granted use of the Kanat Tabla quarry. The deal boils down to what's basically a subsidy for the firm, an obvious agreement that is significantly one-sided in favor of the lessee. DPL normally leases public land for quarrying purposes at \$12,000 per year and royalty fee of \$1.75 per cubic yard of quarry materials removed.

But DPL reduced this figure to \$3,000 annually in favor of the lessee by some \$9,000 below normal rate the rental amount subject to negotiation after the lessee secures more projects and begins turning in some profit. It triggers a vital question: Since when is DPL in the business of subsidizing lessees at the expense of the landowners? Why has it decided to sacrifice our interest?

Who's shortchanged? NMI landowners! DPL has basically agreed pawned our interest hoping to squeak by its ill-conceived scheme employing a poorly thought-out contract. No worries, we also could read and discern the suspect, if not, fraudulent deal it rendered. In whose gain and interest? Do you understand the definition of the word "free?"

My interest peaked as I reviewed appropriate protocol in the lease of any and all public lands. Did DPL require lessee to submit corporate tax record from revenue and taxation and did it probe if lessee is financially capable to conduct business? If not, why not and is there substantial reasons it failed to do so on these scores? Are we supposed to ignore its purposeful negligence and fraudulent disposition as excusable? Is negligence an acceptable norm in the "management, use and disposition" of public land per constitutional mandates?

This deal stinks from the outset. Were other quarry operators granted the same break on annual rental? If so, can DPL publish it for all to see? The decision is definitely arbitrary and seemingly gift wrapped in impropriety.

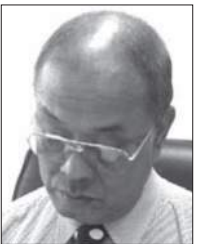
**Aggregate material's free!**

In this instance, DPL also committed malfeasance by ignoring "due diligence" in its hasty review and decision on the contract. It blindly ignored that the lessee would be selling FREE aggregate material it mines from our public land. The fraudulent excuse it perpetrate doesn't hold water given that the product—mined aggregate mate-

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*



rial—is, yes, FREE!

Did anybody else apply for the same quarry? If so, who are the applicants and was the lessee one of the applicants. Were others denied use of the quarry formally informed of DPL's decision? Or was this also conveniently ignored because it is "reserved" for the governor's "cherry picked" friends? Please show name of applicants and date of submission of application. Should be interesting reading, if not, fodder for standup comedy.

DPL also schemed to call the lease "temporary," but it granted a 10-year lease agreement to its favored lessee. Would not the term "temporary" a provisional approval subject to final negotiations? Well, at least it must be a new lesson in the warp redefinition of the term "temporary" that reminds me of securing an airline ticket where your flight is confirmed but placed on standby. Good fodder for standup comedy but an interesting definition that is so far removed from how Dr. Webster defines "temporary".

**AG's role on deal**

Furthermore, the lease agreement was signed by the AG's Office after its assigned legal eagle has reviewed the document. A glimpse into the AG's fiduciary duties says it has to review all contracts to ensure conformity to "form and legal capacity." An appellate court decision grants it "immunity" for reviewing, approving and disapproving contracts submitted for its review.

But the decision further obligates the AG to ensure that its review process is done in the "best interest of the NMI". In my view, any abuse and recklessness of the review process nullifies complete immunity thus subject to legal review in the court of law. May I reiterate that abrogation of obligation nullifies immunity, thus it isn't an

**CLEARING**

From Page 10

Perhaps the GOP ought to make a pilgrimage to Beijing and see if the economic boon experienced in China is worth the price its citizens are paying—and will continue to pay for years to come. Such "job creation" hardly seems a bargain when it's offset by sickness, disease and death. And make no mistake, that's what China's perennial state of "orange alerts" represents.

Whether Beijing has truly learned its lesson because of one particularly bad weekend of smog remains to be seen, of course. But when pollution gets bad enough, even the most totalitarian states are forced to acknowledge that something is wrong. Here or there, public opinion matters—as does the opportunity to breathe.



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 81

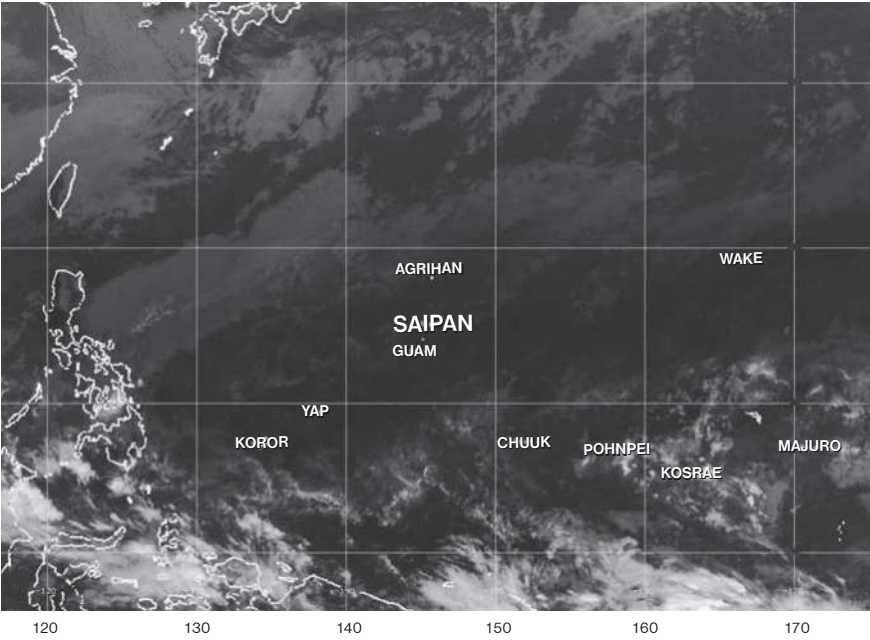
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 61
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 20
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 57
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 67
London	Snow	▲ 33 ▼ 24
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 46
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 74
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 64
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 30 ▼ 29
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▼ 36
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 32 ▼ 17
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 44 ▼ 28
Rome	Windy	▲ 46 ▼ 31
Salem	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 34
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 63 ▼ 44
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 36 ▼ 12
Tokyo	Sunny	▲ 44 ▼ 29
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 39 ▼ 29

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
6:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
12:28 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
7:36 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N178E to 20N151E then continues as a shear line across the northern CNMI to beyond 130E at 14N. Clouds and patchy rain are found along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A convergence zone setting up from south of Pohnpei across Kosrae and the southern Marshall Islands to the dateline is causing widely scattered showers between 2N and 8N from 156E to 180.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:16 AM	
Saturday	11:57 AM	12:02 AM
Sunday	12:39 PM	12:52 AM
Monday	1:23 PM	1:42 AM
Tuesday	2:09 PM	2:31 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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  - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
  - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
  - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
  - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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  - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
  - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
  - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
  - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JAN. 7, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
<b>SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)</b> UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	<b>GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN</b> UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
<b>SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)</b> DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	<b>NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN</b> DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 2, 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)</b> OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	<b>OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN</b> OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
<b>SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)</b> OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	<b>BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN</b> OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
<b>SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)</b> OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	<b>SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN</b> OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
<b>SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)</b> 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	<b>SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
<b>SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)</b> MU7108 3:50am 7:00am 1, 5	<b>BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN</b> MU7107 7:40pm 2:55am+1 4, 7
<b>SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)</b> 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	<b>GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN</b> 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
<b>SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)</b> XF1734 6:30am 12:30pm 5	<b>VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN</b> XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
<b>SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)</b> OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM  UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	<b>MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN</b> OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5071 10:10pm 8:00am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
<b>SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)</b> OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	<b>HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN</b> OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
<b>Guam-Rota</b>				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
<b>Rota-Saipan</b>							
FRE 17:50	18:20	Daily					
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				<b>Tinian-Saipan</b>			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 10:20	10:45	Daily		FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
<b>Saipan-Rota</b>				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
<b>Rota-Guam</b>				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
<b>Saipan-Tinian</b>				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Discussions behind closed doors

Contrary to what has been said by a certain Hong, the facts will reveal there have been a lot of discussions conducted behind closed doors regarding the proposed amendments or changes to the existing Rota casino act including their immediate passage without the knowledge or conformity by the people and electorates of Rota.

His claim of having asked to meet with me is completely untrue. If it were, it was thru saved

text messages by a Rota senator who requested to set an appointment for me and Hong, but I was not replied to when I asked for what purpose or reason. In addition, I was never formally or officially informed of any meetings with any investor, expert in casino dealings, etc. It is my believe, and proper protocol dictates that any serious investor must express his or her plan or proposal in writing and submit to all affected parties, and not out of thin air.

The facts will also reveal that although I have requested to be provided with the investors' data, statistics, analysis,

comments including public comments as public comments are integral and crucial to the bill prior to its introduction, I received none, except from those persons I requested comments from as they were directly involved in the crafting and designing of the Rota casino act. All of those comments strongly recommend for public hearings to be first conducted and any amendments or changes to the casino act must be ratified by the people and electorates of Rota.

For the record, as an act of desperation and total disrespect to me who is the duly elected representative for the people of Rota, I learned that a House member from Saipan has been asked and persistent contacts have been pursued for the introduction and immediate passage of the house local bill without first accord-

ing the people and electorates of Rota the right to be heard and the right to decide.

In addition, after it was known that the proposed House local bill would be required to sit in three appearances as it is not an appropriation bill, and to expedite passage, it was quickly converted to a house bill which bill would only be required to sit in one appearance. I have also been informed that constant contacts in all directions have been made for its instantaneous passage, again, without the intend of first according the people and electorates of Rota the right to conform and ratify the amendments or changes to the Rota casino act, which is but a direct insult, and not in the best interest of the people of Rota and certainly against the spirit of the casino act.

To pose a question, since when

is it an investor's right to challenge or go against the mandate or will of the people or society? A good investor will never have the audacity to do so.

What I would like Hong to fully know and clearly understand is I don't meet or discuss matters in the dark and until he publicly meets, and the people and electorates of Rota conform and ratify the amendments or changes to the Rota casino act, the latter remains in status quo.

My politics is, "as long as I am the elected representative for the people of Rota, I shall continue to carry out the mandate that has been entrusted to me by the people of Rota. I will never ever allow my people and electorates of Rota to be sold under my protective and defensive custody!

**Rep. Teresita A. Santos**  
Rota

**MIGHTY**

From Page 11

absolute legal shield per se.

Now, is the orchestrated and fraudulent subsidy given to a certain DPL lessee "in the best interest of the NMI?" Did DPL follow the mandates of laws and regulations governing construction of land leases to ensure that it's in the "best interest of the NMI?" More so than not, it seems the DPL became an abettor to a scheme that neglected due diligence in order to ensure that we the public landowners subsidize the lessee's operations under the agreement. I smell a filthy fat rat in this deal!

**Public interest ignored**

Indeed, the lucrative deal (a fully one-sided agreement favoring the lessee) leaves the landowners swallowing the bitter peel of malfeasance on the part of DPL by agreeing to an under-priced land lease that warrants revisiting at all cost.

Probing it would ensure that the laws, rules, and regulations on land leases and other government contracts are followed to the letter. At any rate, I still want this deal probed by the Office of the Public Auditor, Senate EAGI and House Judiciary committees. It's time to slam the lid wide open like you collectively did on the PPA contract where Smiling Smurf thinks he's absolved himself. Nah! The maggots have only gotten bigger and fatter too.

After all, it is critically vital that we sever and eliminate the tentacles of corruption in local government, now seemingly found in deep crevices only known to the teeny almighty and his servile minions. This has gone on for far too long.

It must stop right here and now! Those charged of handling disposition of projects must ensure non-interference from upstairs where the silent tentacles of corruption is used in favor of "cherry picked" businesses. Fair is fair! OPA and investigative arms of the legislature must step in now before the filthy maggots of the "we few" get fatter than real life worms crawling in nearly all quarters of government.

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Altima Coupe	BC100556	Black	\$4,000.00	Ranger XL	BPA927	<b>SOLD</b> Silver	<del>\$4,000.00</del>
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Civic LX	CE0059	<b>SOLD</b> Beige	<del>\$2,000.00</del>	Ranger Sport	BPA99588	White	\$4,000.00
Civic EX	CE005271	Black	\$3,000.00	Ranger Sport	BPA526	<b>SOLD</b> Silver	<del>\$4,000.00</del>
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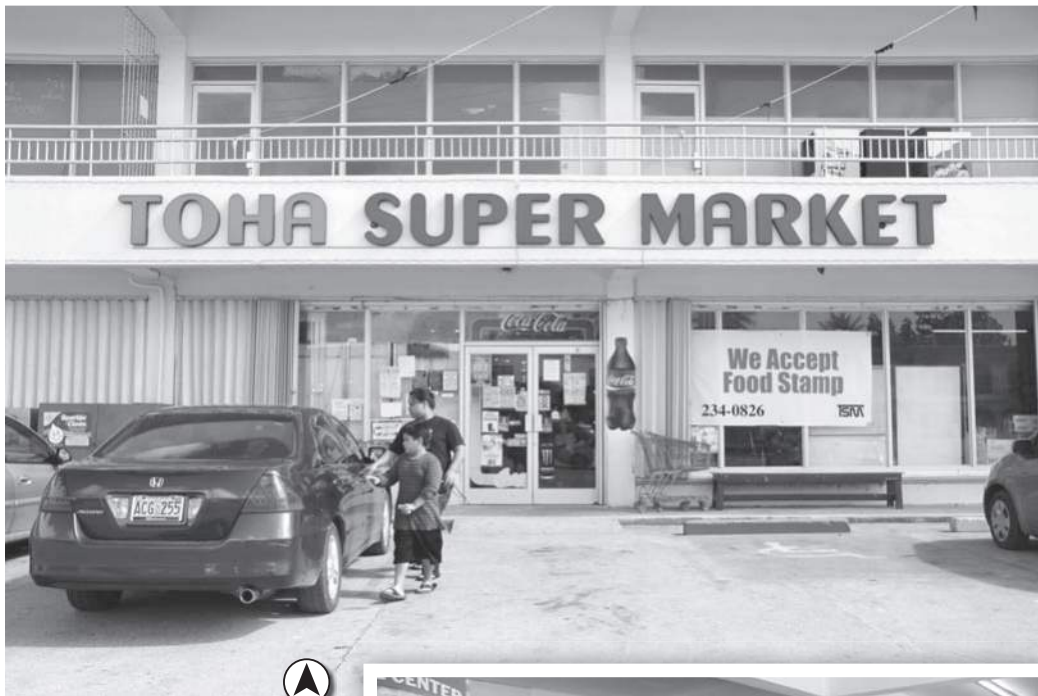
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CLARISSA V. DAVID

Toha Supermarket is celebrating its first anniversary with a raffle draw that would give away a brand new iPhone 5, gift certificates, and other exciting prizes. Starting today, every \$30 purchase entitles the customer with a raffle ticket, and winners will be drawn on Feb. 18.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Most of grocery items are available at Toha Supermarket located in San Antonio.



## AS TOHA SUPERMARKET TURNS 1

## Brand new iPhone 5 awaits lucky shopper

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A brand new iPhone 5 awaits the grand prizewinner of the raffle draw in celebration of Toha Supermarket's first anniversary.

Beginning today, customers who purchase a minimum of \$30 at the store located in San Antonio will receive one raffle ticket.

All entries will be drawn on Feb. 18 for a chance to win the iPhone 5 for first prize, \$200 worth of Toha

Supermarket gift certificates for second prize, and \$100 in Toha Supermarket GCs for third prize.

Other minor prizes will also be given away in the raffle draw which serves as Toha Supermarket's way of saying thank you to the local community for supporting the store, says business owner Panna Mir.

"I thought we're not going to make it because of the island economy. But our initial target clearly has been a success," Mir told *Saipan Tribune* in yesterday's interview at the store's premises.

While their sales record has not been at an all-time high given the economic downturn, it's not very bad either, according to Mir.

Mir's feat in his first supermarket venture on island is not far-fetched as the Bangladeshi entrepreneur has a strong background in grocery store management. His brother now runs the two supermarkets that their father established in their native land.

"In the grocery business, it's very important to monitor the items that you sell, if you still have enough stock. You also have to check the expiration dates," he said.

Toha Supermarket, according to Mir, takes pride in the fact that they have most of grocery items available in their store and at reasonable prices compared to their competitors.

"I believe our prices are the best," he added.

Mir said that their client base is not limited to residents of San Antonio and nearby villages. Because of the affordability of their items, shoppers from Garapan, Tanapag, and even as far as Kagman prefer to do their shopping at Toha Supermarket.

"We really want to thank everybody for supporting our store and enabling us to stay in business," he said.

To show their appreciation to customers, Toha Supermarket will also feature special rates for most of their store items on top of the raffle draw. Additionally, there will be giveaways such as Canadian cookies for customers with purchases worth \$100 or more.

"The more you buy, the more chances you'll have to get free items and raffle tickets," said Mir.

In the future, Mir hopes to extend their store which he said is only 90 percent complete at the moment.

"We want to extend the store and make it bigger to sell more items and accommodate more customers," he added.

Toha Supermarket is located next to DPA Car Mart in San Antonio. It is open daily from 7am to 11pm. Most credit cards are accepted and food stamps are also welcome. For more information, call 234-0826.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Toha Supermarket owner Panna Mir, right, with company secretary Chen Xue Mei and staffer Jocelyn A. Ferrer.

# Toha Supermarket

## Congratulations On Your 1st Anniversary!

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# EEOC lawyer to serve as keynote speaker at MLK event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A senior attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, D.C. will hold the distinction of addressing the island community in this year's observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Paula R. Bruner will serve as the keynote speaker at the celebration organized by the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee of the CNMI in collaboration with the Northern Marianas Council for the Humanities.

The event, to be held on Monday from 4:30pm to 6pm at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater, would mark the seventh anniversary of the CNMI-wide observance of the national holiday that pays tribute to the prominent leader of the African-American civil rights movement.

Since her arrival on Saipan early Monday morning, Bruner has been visiting several junior high and high schools on island in an effort to inspire students on King's unceasing relevance and contributions to the society.

"Because I'm an employment

## Rotary to support building of Sendai tsunami memorial

The Rotary Club of Saipan voted on Tuesday to support the efforts of the Rotary District in Tohoku in creating a tsunami memorial in Sendai, Japan.

President Pete Shilling informed the club's membership that their Tohoku counterparts have asked other clubs in Japan to respond to their calls in the construction of the tsunami memorial dedicated to the victims of the destructive tsunami triggered by a 9.0-magnitude earthquake in March 2011.

Shilling said that Pacific Basin Group district governor Takamoto Sakuma has asked clubs belonging to the group, including the Rotary Club of Saipan, to provide \$120 and a club banner as their contribution.

All present Rotarians agreed to become a recognized supporter of the tsunami memorial, and Shilling said he will communicate with assistant district governor Mike Perrin regarding the best way to send the money and the banner.

Shilling noted that the club's contribution will have to be sent out before the end of the month.

Established in 1968, Rotary Club of Saipan is one of the over 34,200 service clubs dedicated to upholding the principles established by Rotary International, including providing humanitarian services, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations, and building goodwill and peace in the world. (Clarissa V. David)



Senior attorney Paula R. Bruner is flanked by members of the African-American Cultural Preservation Committee of the CNMI, representatives of the Marianas High School, and NMI Humanities Council following Bruner's presentation at MHS on Wednesday. Inset photo shows Bruner delivering her remarks at the packed MHS Dolphin Theater.

discrimination lawyer with the EEOC, I speak to them about how Dr. King's legacy focusing on racial equality and justice for all was eventually moved to focus in general on people who had been disadvantaged, silenced, and disenfranchised. He wanted to galvanize a movement of people of all colors, creed, national origin, and races and have them respected for the content of their character and merits of their ability as opposed to their skin color, national origin, and gender," she said in an interview.

Bruner recounted how African-Americans remained shackled by laws of injustice and disparate treatment in the '50s and '60s, particularly in the south. But the New Jersey native noted that racist activities also permeated the north, albeit not as overtly violent.

Growing up, Bruner recounted

how their family, being the only African-American residents in the neighborhood up until today, would spend a lot of nights under the bed not knowing when they would be attacked by the Klu Klux Klan which made them feel that they were not welcome.

Bruner, whose father was active in the civil rights movement, said she was only 8 years old when King, the iconic African-American figure, was assassinated in 1968. While she does not remember where she was or what she was doing at the time, she remembered clearly being devastated.

"I remember just being thunderstruck, heartbroken, devastated," Bruner told *Saipan Tribune*. "I'm having all these emotions even as a child and it didn't help to observe that my parents, grandparents, people in the streets are just crying and rioting out of frustration and anger."

King's efforts, said Bruner, galvanized a movement that paid attention to the inequities in the society and resulted to the passage of laws such as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 which guaranteed certain rights.

While great strides have been made and opportunities were made available for people of color and women, Bruner recognized that problems on discrimination and inequality still exist, and this is where offices like EEOC and the Department of Justice, to name a few, come in to rid the nation of these injustices.

She pointed out that one of the biggest accomplishments for the people of color is to see an African-American become president for two consecutive terms, which she deemed is part of King's dream.

The theme of this year's MLK Day celebration in the

CNMI is "I Have A Dream: Education is the Key," and Bruner maintained that King was instrumental in eliminating the barriers that once prevented the youth from getting the best education possible.

"We see that with each barrier that's broken, it gives hope to the next person that the American dream would actually apply to all of us. I'm just thankful for the opportunities to be able to witness in our lifetime these barriers coming down, that people don't have to look a certain way in order to perform and be considered the best qualified,"

she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Bruner said that King has taught people that the greatest thing one can do is to serve humankind because there's so much to be gained from helping others.

"When you help others, you help yourself. When you help others to grow, you actually elevate yourself, your character, and integrity because there's something intrinsically rewarding about being a catalyst to someone else's elevation. Serve because it's the right thing, and doing the right thing is always going to be the right thing to do," she explained.



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

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Opening Date: Friday, January 18, 2013  
Closing Date: Friday, February 01, 2013

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**LOCATION:** Chief Financial Officer Division, SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

**SALARY:** \$17,282.00 to \$25,231.00 per year; un-graded, un-classified.

**POSITIONS:** Two (2).

**CONTRACT:** Not Contracted

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# TOHA SUPERMARKET

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Greetings from

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# Businesses urged to complete Economic Census Survey

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, through the U.S. Census Bureau Economic Statistics and CNMI Department of Commerce's Central Statistics Division, would like to remind all businesses in the CNMI that the 2012 Economic Census is under way. All island businesses should have received their forms since the end of December 2012.

A total of 1,286 questionnaires were mailed out last month. To date, a total of 14 questionnaires have been filled and returned back to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Three mail follow ups will be conducted during the months of March, April and May followed by telephone and in-person follow up during the months of June

and July by staff of the department's Central Statistics Division.

The Economic Census of Island Areas is the major source of facts about the structure and functioning of the economy of the CNMI. Data from the Economic Census is important for everyone involved with the economy from government policy makers trying to assess po-

tential impact of proposed legislation to the trade associations looking to assess trends within their industries, and to the individual businesses trying to analyze potential new markets. This data has been found to be useful in the past in large part due to businesses completing their Economic Census forms.

In issuing this notification,

Commerce Secretary Sixto Igisomar stated, "It is through these types of data that shape the Department of Commerce's economic recommendations to policy makers. I want to extend my appreciation for the support from the local business community".

Igisomar added that it is advisable for all businesses to complete the questionnaire forms on-line or

through mail by the due date of Feb. 12, 2013.

This reminder will also be accessible at [www.commerce.gov.mp](http://www.commerce.gov.mp). For any questions or comments please contact Central Statistics director Alphonis M. Sound at e-mail [director.csd@commerce.gov.mp](mailto:director.csd@commerce.gov.mp) or call (670)-664-3023/45. **(Office of the Governor)**

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### WME searching for Couple Married Longest in the CNMI

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Community is joining other Marriage Encounter groups around the U.S. in searching for the Couple Married Longest in the CNMI.

The Couple Married Longest search is being conducted in preparation for honoring World Marriage Day on Feb. 10, 2013.

If you have been married for over 50 years, or if you know of friends or relatives who have been, and both spouses are still living, please email their names, phone numbers, and wedding date to [cnmiwmd@yahoo.com](mailto:cnmiwmd@yahoo.com). The deadline for all entries is Jan. 31, 2013. The winning couple will be notified and honored with a WWME World Marriage Day Certificate at one of the selected World Marriage

Day Masses. **(PR)**

### CHCC CEO on Marianas Agupa

*Marianas Agupa* will feature former governor Juan N. Babauta this Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013 between 10am to 10:30am to update the community about healthcare corporation's progress thus far and other activities underway to make the CNMI a healthier community.

Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use *Marianas Agupa's* Facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro Radio Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: World report and program review by former mayor Joseph

S. Inos. A special segment reports from Rota with correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator with former senator David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet via [www.magic100radio.com](http://www.magic100radio.com) will be available. For more information, contact Glenn at 287-4536. **(PR)**

### ARC to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

- Wed., Jan. 23 at 6pm – Adult CPR/AED
- Sat., Jan. 26 at 8am – Adult CPR/AED
- Wed., Jan. 30 at 6pm – Infant & Child CPR/AED
- Thurs., Jan. 31 at 6pm – Adult

CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, please contact the chapter office at 234-3459. **(PR)**

### Aquarius Beach Tower to hold 'Beach Clean-Up Day' today

Aquarius Beach Tower will be having a "Beach Clean-Up Day" toat, Jan. 18, 2013 from 8am to 9:30am. The community is encouraged to stop by the hotel and help us clean up Chalan Kanoa Beach. Bring your recycled bags for trash pickup. For more information, call the hotel at 235-6025. **(PR)**

### MHS Class of '83 sets general meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 will have a gen-

eral meeting today, Jan. 18, 2013, at Minatchom Atdao Pavilion, Susupe, Civic Center Beach, at 7pm. For more information, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. **(PR)**

### Tinian Municipal Council inauguration reset

This is to inform all guests of the 14th Municipal Council of Tinian and Aguiguan that the Inauguration has been rescheduled to Saturday, Jan. 19, 2013, out of respect for the untimely passing and funeral of a Tinian resident. For more information on the Inaugural schedule, contact the Mayor's Office of Tinian and Aguiguan at (670) 433-1800 or 433-1802. **(PR)**

### CCA to join Massive Bingo Bonanza

The Commonwealth Cancer Association will be sponsoring

a Bingo Spectacular fundraising event in partnership with the Massive Bingo Bonanza on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2013, at the former Fishing Base Complex, across the Horiguchi Building in Garapan. Participants will have the opportunity to vie for a \$1,000 cash payout prize. Tickets are \$20 for one package, each package providing 10 games. The doors will open at 2pm and the games will start at 3pm in the afternoon.

The community is encouraged to come down and enjoy the games, and assist the very worthy cause of facilitating cancer programs in the CNMI. All proceeds from the event will go to CCA. Contact the CCA at 682-0050 or by email at [ccamarianas@gmail.com](mailto:ccamarianas@gmail.com) for tickets or for more information about CCA and its programs. **(CCA)**



## Public Participation Requirement

### CNMI Public School System Early Intervention Program and Special Education Program



Pursuant to Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004, & GEPA, the Public School System Special Education Program and Early Intervention Program are required to provide at least 60 days prior to the submission of grant applications for funds, a 60 day circulation notice with an opportunity for public comment on the application for at least 30 days during that period and provides an opportunity for the general public, including individuals with disabilities and parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, to provide comments.

- Public Circulation Period: January 21, 2013 thru March 22, 2013
- Public Comment Period: February 1, 2013 thru March 4, 2013

Hard copies of the Grant Applications are available from Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Program, PSS in Susupe – 237-3029  
Children's Development Assistance Center (C\*DAC) in  
Garapan – 664-4841/42/43

You may also access the grant applications on the PSS Website:  
[www.cnmiipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction:assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications](http://www.cnmiipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction:assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications)

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Program located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg. at the back of Marianas High School in Susupe, or phone your comments in to:

Special Education Program (670) 237-3029  
Children's Dev. Assistance Center (670) 664-4841/42/43

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama, Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029, Robin L. Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4841/664-4842/664-4843.



## UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



### NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is hereby gives notice that it will hold a 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on Tuesday, January 29, 2013, from 9:00am – 2:00pm at the Annex III, Pacific Islands Club - Saipan.

#### AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- IV. ADOPTION OF MINUTES – September 14, 2012
- V. ACTION ITEMS
  - a. Election of Officers
    - i. Fiscal Officer
    - ii. Secretary
    - iii. Vice Chairman
    - iv. Chairman
  - b. Approval of Amended FY 2013 Commonwealth Respite Care Services/Program Budget
  - c. Approval Proposed FY 2014 Commonwealth Respite Care Services/Program Budget
  - d. Approval of Renewal of CDD and CAMI MOA – Trankilu Alternative Financing Loan Program
- VI. REPORT
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Executive Director
  - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
  - d. State Plan Committee Chairperson
- VII. OLD BUSINESS
  - a. 2013 Summer Camp (A DD/Tri-agency Effort)
  - b. Status of Call-A-Ride Transportation Program
  - c. Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority Update
  - d. New Council Membership Orientation
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. Respite Care Services/Program Plan
  - b. Voices of the CNMI (Self-Advocacy Organization)
  - c. Self-Advocacy Training
  - d. ASCNMI Quiz Night
  - e. DD Awareness Month/Autism Awareness Month Activities
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- X. MISCELLANEOUS
- XI. NEXT MEETING
- XII. ADJOURNMENT

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 3 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Thomas J. Camacho  
Chairman

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)



# CIP Office turns over \$20K worth of equipment to Corrections

The Office of the Governor's Capital Improvement Program Office, led by CIP coordinator Virginia Villagomez, yesterday turned over some \$20,000 worth of equipment and tools to the Department of Corrections to use for its Community Service Program. The equipment was funded through a grant applied for by the CNMI and awarded by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"The Community Service Program will facilitate the

maintenance of public areas using personnel with court imposed obligations," stated Villagomez. "Under this structure, OIA funds will provide a much needed maintenance program at minimal costs. Essentially, the program will obtain approximately \$105,000 in free labor from this \$20,000 grant funds we requested."

The Fitial administration lauded the work of the CIP Office in successfully securing this grant and the Department of Corrections, which will

have custodial authority and use of the equipment and tools as part of the Community Service Program throughout the public areas.

"The maintenance of public facilities and parks will greatly improve the appearance and cleanliness of the public areas," stated Gov. Benigno R. Fitial. "Moreover, through the Community Service Program, our residents and visitors can expect a cleaner and more enhanced environment."

Under this approved grant

submission, the funds received from OIA were used to procure two riding mowers, four push lawn mowers, ten bush cutters, two blowers, two Worx blower/vac/mulcher, sixteen lawn rakes, sixteen shovels, and 11 refills of line trimmers. The Community Service Program will service public areas such as the Beach Road pathways, Marpi Public Cemetery, Emergency Operation Center, and other public parks and facilities. *(Office of the Governor)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CIP coordinator Virginia Villagomez, second left, leads other CIP staffers Nerrisa Benavente and Carl Castro in turning over some \$20,000 worth of equipment and tools to officers from the Department of Corrections. Funding was made possible through a grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

## UOG Green interns work with Okayama University on recycling survey

University of Guam Green interns assisted Okayama University in a survey project to determine the best areas to place recycling and waste collection bins. The UOG Green interns distributed surveys to tourists in the Tumon area on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 16 to 17.

Okayama University started the survey and recycling implementation project in 2012 after Dr. Takeshi Fujiwara of Okayama University noticed that tourists in Tumon were lacking access to recycling and waste separation facilities. He then began developing a plan to provide the tourism sector with the appropriate means to separate their trash and recycling.

Dr. Fujiwara requested participation from the UOG Green interns, because of UOG's leadership in green and sustainability awareness. "We deeply appreciate the time and effort Okayama University is providing to help Guam become a more sustainable island. And of course the UOG Green interns are prepared to assist in any way they can," says UOG Sustainability Coordinator Elvie Tyler.

For more information, please contact Elvie Tyler at the University of Guam Center for Island Sustainability at 734-0478. *(UOG)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Takeshi Fujiwara from Okayama University in Japan, center, provides instructions to the UOG Green Interns before distributing surveys on recycling.

## UOG offers comprehensive NCLEX—RN review course

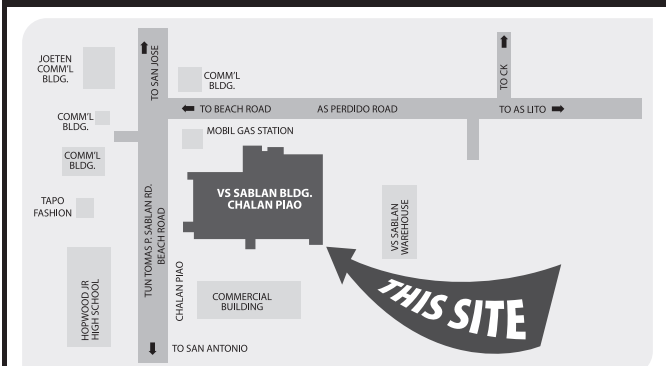
The University of Guam offers a comprehensive NCLEX Review course designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's level nursing program but who have not taken the NCLEX examination for U.S. certification as a registered nurse.

Individuals who have completed nursing programs at foreign universities are welcome. Interested individuals must attend the orientation session scheduled for Jan. 25 at 4pm in Room 229, UOG Health Science Building, School of

Nursing and Health Sciences, UOG Campus.

The course will begin March 2 and run through August 2013 and will be taught by UOG Nursing faculty. Registration fees are \$1,060 for 265 hours of face-to-face instruction. Review books will be an additional cost. Deadline to register is Feb. 15, 2013. For more information, contact Cathleen Moore-Linn at 735-2600/1 cmoore@ugam.uog.edu or Karen Cruz at 735-2660 or keruz@ugam.uog.edu. *(UOG)*

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At **Our Chalan Piao Building, VSS PLAZA** we have rental space available on the **first floor** now at **65 cents per square foot** for units ranging from 700 sq ft to 1400 sq ft. Large 4500 square foot space on the second floor that would be ideal for a GYM or Dance Studio at **35 cents per square foot.**

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**For Lease – 53,500 Sq Meters Available for Lease in Kanat Tabla.**

Ocean View. 31 years Remaining on Lease.

Asking 10.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

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44 years Remaining on Lease.

Asking \$25.00 per square meter. Negotiable.

**Warehouse For Lease – 6750 Square Feet with**

Storage Yard Fenced in Totaling 2000 square meters.

Located at our Chalan Piao location.

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Contact Tony Muna (Cell No. 888-9290 Email Address: plebechamp80@gmail.com) or Ben Sablan (Cell No. 898-2454 Email Address: vicente\_sablan@yahoo.com) or Call 234-2585.

## OUR HISTORY, OUR STORIES

**Do you or your family have a story about caves and WWII?**

**Do you have a WWII  
cave on your property?**

**Do you care about  
protecting your cave?**



**Come share your stories and thoughts about WWII caves**

**PUBLIC MEETING  
Tuesday Jan 22, 6pm  
American Memorial Park**

**Flinders University with National Park Service funding are holding a public meeting for landowners to express their views and opinions about preserving and protecting WWII heritage on private property and preserving their stories about the war.**

**If you cannot make it and want input, call  
Jennifer McKinnon @ 785-9609, or after  
5pm Genevieve Cabrera @ 483-0194.**



# Business

## After another emergency, more trouble for 787 jet

By JOSHUA FREED  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

The federal government grounded Boeing's newest and most technologically advanced jetliner Wednesday, declaring that the 787 cannot fly again until the risk of battery fires is addressed.

The Federal Aviation Administration said it would work with Boeing and U.S. airlines to develop a plan to allow the Dreamliner to "resume operations as quickly and safely as possible." United Airlines is the only U.S. carrier with 787s. It has six.

The FAA decision was the latest setback for a plane that was supposed to set a new standard for jet travel but has been beset by one mishap after another.

For the second time in two weeks, a smoking or burning battery has been tied to an emergency aboard a 787. Almost half of the 787s that have been delivered have now been grounded for safety checks. And the latest incident raises the risk that the jet's electrical problems are more dangerous than previously thought.

So far, no one has suggested that the plane's fundamental design can't be fixed. But it's

unclear how much will need to be changed. The remedy could range from relatively quick-and-easy improvements to more extensive changes that could delay deliveries just as Boeing is trying to speed production up from five planes per month to 10.

On Wednesday, Japan's All Nippon Airways said pilots smelled something burning and received a cockpit message warning of battery problems while flying from Yamaguchi Ube airport in western Japan to Tokyo.

They made an emergency landing at Takamatsu airport

in western Japan, and passengers evacuated using inflatable slides.

An inspection found that a flammable liquid had leaked from the main lithium-ion battery, which is below and slightly behind the cockpit. Investigators found burn marks around the damage.

"Anytime you have a fire on

board—whether it's the battery that has caused it or a passenger that caused it or another electrical component—that's a very a serious situation on an aircraft and something not to be taken lightly," said Kevin Hiatt, president of the Flight Safety Foundation.

Japan's Kyodo News agency quoted transport ministry inves-

tigator Hideyo Kosugi as saying that the liquid leaked through the electrical room floor to the outside of the aircraft.

The transport ministry said the leak could have led to an accident. ANA, which operates 17 of the jets, and Japan Airlines, which has seven, said they won't fly their 787s until they complete safety checks. That's almost half of the 50 planes Boeing has delivered since handing the first one over to ANA in late 2011. Just last week, a battery on a Japan Airlines 787 caught fire soon after the plane landed at Boston's Logan Airport. It took firefighters 40 minutes to put out the flames.



A Boeing 787 sits parked at Boeing Field Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, in Seattle. Federal officials say they are temporarily grounding Boeing's 787 Dreamliners until the risk of possible battery fires is addressed. T

## Business CEOs call for raising retirement age

WASHINGTON (AP)—An influential group of business CEOs is pushing a plan to gradually increase the full retirement age to 70 for both Social Security and Medicare and to partially privatize the health insurance program for older Americans.

The Business Roundtable's plan would protect those 55 and older from cuts but younger workers would face significant changes. The plan unveiled Wednesday would result in smaller annual benefit increases for all Social Security recipients. Initial benefits for wealthy retirees would also be smaller.

Medicare recipients would be able to enroll in the traditional program or in private plans that could adjust premiums based on age and health status. "America can preserve the health and retirement safety net and rein in long-term spending growth by modernizing Medicare and Social Security in a way that addresses America's new fiscal and demographic realities," said Gary Loveman, chairman, president and chief executive of

casino giant Caesars Entertainment Corp.

Loveman, who chairs the Business Roundtable's health and retirement committee, said the business leaders will be meeting with members of Congress and the administration to press them to enact their plan.

The proposal comes as Republican leaders in Congress are calling for spending cuts as part of an agreement to increase the government's authority to borrow. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the U.S. will exhaust its borrowing authority as soon as mid-February, raising the possibility of a first-ever national default.

President Barack Obama has said he is willing to negotiate deficit reduction with GOP leaders but insists that those talks be separate from decisions to raise the \$16.4 trillion debt ceiling. Obama has warned that if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, the economy could crash and Social Security checks and veterans' benefits would be delayed.

## Fed survey: US economy picked up at end of year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Holiday shopping, strong auto sales and a recovering housing market helped boost the U.S. economy from the middle of November through early January, according to a Federal Reserve survey released Wednesday.

The Fed said 12 of its regional banking districts reported "modest or moderate" growth in the final weeks of 2012. Of those, only St. Louis said growth had slowed from the previous survey, which covered October through early November.

Consumers increased spending at the end of the year in every district. Auto sales were steady or stronger in 10 districts. Nearly all of the districts reported increases in home construction and home sales.

Still, employers in some parts of the country delayed hiring because of uncertainty over the fiscal cliff. Congress and the White House reached a deal on Jan. 1 to prevent sharp income tax increases from hitting most Americans. But they put off decisions on government spending cuts.

The report, called the Beige Book, provides anecdotal information on economic conditions through Jan. 4. Overall, analysts said the survey showed the economy looked better at the end of the year.

"Despite concerns about the dreaded fiscal cliff, the economy looks to have improved slightly in recent months," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets. He said the latest survey probably had not fully captured the improvement in business sentiment that has occurred with the January deal to avoid most income tax increases.

Congress must still decide what to do about automatic spending cuts that are now set to take effect in March.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Judiciary Public Information & Administrative Office**  
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165, Saipan MP 96950



### EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Judiciary is seeking a qualified individual with a successful record for the position of:

### CLIENT SERVICE COORDINATOR On the island of Rota

**DUTIES:** The successful candidate will work under the direct supervision of the Presiding Judge of the Commonwealth Superior Court and direct supervision of the Manager of the Family Court or his/her designee and perform the following duties:

Maintain and promote positive workflow with Victim Advocates and all other agencies involved in the processing and distribution of family protection cases / TRO (FP/TRO).

Participate in court and special hearings for all family protection cases;

Assist the courtroom clerks with docketing and scheduling of hearings for FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;

Assist in the distribution of orders, pleading and other documents in FP/TRO and criminal domestic violence cases;

Coordinate and schedule homes assessment as well as process referral orders for those court clients referred to social and mental health services;

Conduct interviews of court clients and their families; analyze the information, identify possible problems areas, make recommendations concerning the case and referral to other social service agencies;

Input case information into the Justware Case Management System and the Lexus Nexus E-filing system; Attend the monthly Family Violence Task Force meetings;

Assist in the planning and coordination of domestic violence training conferences;

Assist in the development and enhancement of the Family Court Pro Se/Court Services program for family violence cases;

Maintain and monitor the Victim of Crime Act formula grant program's goals and objectives which will include the preparation of quarterly reports, compilation of case statistics and processing of purchase requisition, and

Adhere to and comply with all promulgated policies, standards and codes of ethical conduct and perform other related duties as assigned.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

High School Diploma or equivalent plus graduation from an accredited college with an Associate of Arts (AA) degree in social work, criminal justice, or related services, plus one (1) year of experience in clerical, data collection or similar field.

Must have the ability to maintain and control sensitive and confidential information, maintain professional records, and uphold office policies. Must be able to operate a personal computer, have a valid drivers' license, and operate a court vehicle.

**COMPENSATION:** This is a one year contract funded by a federal grant and is not automatically renewable. The ungraded position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Presiding Judge of the CNMI Superior Court. Annual salary will be: \$18,000.00.

**INTERESTED PERSONS** may obtain application forms at the Office of Personnel Management in the CNMI, at the Judiciary Administrative Office at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe / House of Justice in Susupe or at the Superior Court Office on Tinian and Rota. Completed application, cover letter, resume with references, police clearance and proof of eligibility to work in the CNMI should be submitted to:

Human Resource / Administrative Officer  
Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice  
P.O. Box 502165  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel. (670) 236-9716  
Fax. (670) 236-9702

This job announcement will remain open until January 22, 2013. Also this job announcement can be seen and a printable copy of the application downloaded at <http://www.justice.gov.mp/>.

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### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

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Website: [www.crm.gov.mp](http://www.crm.gov.mp)



### NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at 10:30 A.M. at the CRMO Office Located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

### AGENDA

#### I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call

#### II. PERMIT APPLICATION

- Kannat Tabla Quarry – CRM Permit no. SMS-2012-X-061
- Permit Application summary by CRMO
  - Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
  - Permit Application Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)

#### III. OTHER MATTERS

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ**  
Administrator



Nation

Obama unveils gun plan, concedes tough fight ahead

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conceding “this will be difficult,” President Barack Obama urged a reluctant Congress on Wednesday to require background checks for all gun sales and ban both military-style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines in an emotion-laden plea to curb gun violence in America.

The president’s sweeping, \$500 million plan, coming one month after the school massacre in Connecticut, marks the most comprehensive effort to tighten gun laws in nearly two decades. But his proposals, most of which are opposed by the National Rifle Association, face a doubtful future in a divided Congress where Republicans control the House.

Seeking to circumvent at least some opposition, Obama signed 23 executive actions on Wednesday, including orders to make more federal data available for background checks and end a freeze on government research on gun violence. But he acknowledged that the steps he took on his own would have less impact than the broad measures requiring approval from Capitol Hill.

“To make a real and lasting difference, Congress, too, must act,” Obama said, speaking at a White House ceremony with school children and their parents. “And Congress must act soon.”



From left to right: Hinna Zeejah, 8, Taejah Goode, 10, Julia Stokes, 11, and Grant Fritz, 8, who wrote letters to President Barack Obama about the school shooting in Newtown, Conn., watch as Obama signs executive orders outlining proposals to reduce gun violence, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, in the South Court Auditorium at the White House in Washington.

The president’s announcements capped a swift and wide-ranging effort, led by Vice President Joe Biden, to respond to the deaths of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. But Obama’s gun control proposals set him up for a tough political fight with Congress as he starts his second term, when he’ll need Republican support to meet three looming fiscal deadlines and pass comprehensive immigration reform.

“I will put everything I’ve got into this, and so will Joe,” the president said. “But I tell you, the only way we can change is if the American people demand it.”

Key congressional leaders were tepid in their response to the White House proposals.

Republican House Speaker John Boehner’s office signaled no urgency to act, with spokesman Michael Steel saying only that “House committees of jurisdiction will review these recommendations. And if the Senate passes a bill, we will also take a look at that.”

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he was committed to ensuring that the Senate will consider gun violence legislation “early this year.” But he did not endorse any of Obama’s specific proposals.

The president vowed to use “whatever weight this office holds” to fight for his recommendations.

To supporters, Swartz was protagonist for a cause

BOSTON (AP)—Since his suicide, friends and admirers have cast free-information activist Aaron Swartz as a martyred hero hounded to his death by the government he antagonized. One newspaper columnist—whose piece on Swartz was accompanied by a photo showing him at his computer, his head encircled by a golden halo—even compared him to an Internet-age Martin Luther King Jr. But those closest to the 26-year-old Swartz say the hacker prodigy wasn’t out to be a hero. Rather, he was a painfully shy young man who felt passionately that government and



Swartz

Swartz for six years. “I don’t think he understood just how much the system would come down on him over it.”

Swartz, a wunderkind who helped create Reddit and RSS, the technology behind blogs, podcasts and other Web-based subscription services, was found dead Friday in his New York apartment.

Swartz’s friends and family blame federal prosecutors for his suicide, saying they pursued him relentlessly in the years since he helped post millions of federal court documents for free online rather than the few cents per page charged by the government through its electronic archive. He was never indicted. But three years later, he was charged in Boston with using the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s computer network to download nearly 5 million academic articles from an online clearinghouse for scholarly journals.

ACROSS THE NATION

Marine pleads guilty to urinating on Afghan corpse

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. (AP)—A Marine who pleaded guilty Wednesday to urinating on the corpse of a Taliban fighter in Afghanistan will likely be demoted one rank under a plea agreement, although a military judge called for a much harsher sentence. Staff Sgt. Edward W. Deptola pleaded guilty to multiple charges at court-martial, including dereliction of duty for desecrating remains, posing for photographs with the corpses and failing to properly supervise junior Marines. The judge, Lt. Col Nicole Hudspeth, would have sentenced him to six months confinement, a \$5,000 fine, demotion to private and a bad-conduct discharge. But she is bound by terms of the plea agreement the sergeant reached with military prosecutors. A general will review the sentence and could choose to lower it.

3rd person dies after Ky. college shooting

HAZARD, Ky. (AP)—A 12-year-old girl allegedly shot by her cousin’s ex-boyfriend at an eastern Kentucky College has died of her injuries. Fayette County Coroner Gary Ginn said Taylor Jade Cornett died shortly before 4 p.m. Wednesday at University of Kentucky Medical Center. Taylor was shot Tuesday, along with her father and her female cousin in the parking lot of Hazard Community and Technical College in Hazard. Police said 21-year-old Dalton Stidham was charged with murder and attempted murder in the case.

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**Government Group Health Insurance**  
**Open Enrollment**  
January 14, 2013 – February 15, 2013  
**Notice of Change in Premiums**

New plan premiums for health insurance members, effective January 01, 2013:

<b>EMPLOYEES PREMIUM PLAN COVERAGE</b>	<b>ENROLLMENT CODE</b>	<b>Employee Share</b>	<b>Employer Share</b>	<b>Applicable Deductible</b>
Single	(1)	\$82.45	\$82.45	\$300.00
Couple	(2)	\$169.02	\$169.02	\$600.00
Couple including Domestic Partner	(2A)	\$255.58	\$82.45	\$600.00
Family	(3)	\$263.83	\$263.83	\$900.00
Family including Domestic Partner	(3A)	\$346.28	\$181.38	\$900.00

<b>RETIREES PREMIUM* PLAN COVERAGE</b>	<b>ENROLLMENT CODE</b>	<b>Employee Share</b>	<b>Employer Share</b>	<b>Applicable Deductible</b>
Single	(1)	\$89.32	\$89.32	\$300.00
Couple	(2)	\$183.10	\$183.10	\$600.00
Couple including Domestic Partner	(2A)	\$276.88	\$89.32	\$600.00
Family	(3)	\$285.81	\$285.81	\$900.00
Family including Domestic Partner	(3A)	\$375.13	\$196.49	\$900.00

\*Retirees’ premiums appear higher than active employees’ premiums due to less pay periods (24 pay periods for retirees vs. 26 pay periods for active employees).

During Open Enrollment, active government employees and **retirees currently enrolled** in the Plan will have the following opportunities:

- An employee not currently covered by AGB may apply for coverage for him/ her/herself and dependent(s)
- If you are currently covered and desire to make changes, you may change Plan C Coverage to add or remove dependent(s)
- Retirees currently enrolled in the plan may make changes

If you are currently covered by AGB and do not wish to make any changes you do not need to reenroll; coverage will automatically continue. However, if you are currently covered by AGB and wish to terminate coverage, you must complete a GGHI Enrollment/Waiver/Change Request form or coverage will automatically continue.

GGHI Enrollment/Waiver/Change Request forms are available at the NMI Retirement Fund offices, or online at [www.nmiretirement.com](http://www.nmiretirement.com). Approved enrollments and changes selected during Open Enrollment shall take effect January 1, 2013. The new premiums should be reflected on employees’ paychecks for the pay period beginning January 1, 2013 and for retirees’ pension for the pay period beginning January 15, 2013. Retirees who were charged at the 2012 rates on their January 15, 2013 pensions will receive a credit on their next pension check that reflects the difference between the 2012 and 2013 rates.

Aetna representatives will be on-island to conduct presentations and answer questions:

**Rota (via video teleconference): January 22, 2013**  
Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: NMC Campus

**Tinian: January 17, 2013**  
Time: 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Tinian Gymnasium

**Saipan: January 15, 16, 18, 21 and 22, 2013**  
Time: 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Multi-Purpose Center



# Asia

## India, Pakistan agree to ease tensions in Kashmir

**NEW DELHI (AP)**—India and Pakistan agreed on Wednesday to ease tensions in disputed Kashmir by strictly observing a decade-old cease-fire after five soldiers were killed in recent clashes, an Indian army spokesman said. The military commanders of the two armies spoke by telephone for 10 minutes and reached an understanding not to allow the situation to escalate further, spokesman Col. Jagdeep Dahiya said.

Three Pakistani soldiers and two Indian soldiers have died in the worst bout of fighting in the region since the cease-fire was signed in 2003. India said one

of its soldiers was beheaded.

The series of tit-for-tat attacks had threatened to ratchet up tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors. Earlier Wednesday, Pakistan accused Indian troops of killing one of its soldiers along the cease-fire line a day earlier. The Pakistani army said the shooting was unprovoked and occurred in the Hot Spring and Jandot sectors of Pakistan-held Kashmir.

However, Col. R.K. Palta, another Indian army spokesman, said Pakistani troops fired at two Indian positions using small arms and mortar fire on Tuesday night in the Poonch sector of the Indian

portion of Kashmir. "Our troops didn't fire at all," Palta said.

Lt. Gen. K.T. Parnaik, an Indian commander in charge of the troubled area, said, "We want to ensure that we dominate the line of control and don't let them (Pakistanis) provoke us into making it a hot line of control."

In a sign of the rising tensions, Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar accused India of "warmongering" in a speech in New York on Tuesday. In New Delhi, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said his country's relations with archrival Pakistan "cannot be business as usual."

India and Pakistan have been rivals for decades and have fought three wars, two of them over Kashmir. The Himalayan region is divided between the two countries, but each claims it in its entirety.

Senior Pakistani and Indian officials are trying to limit the potential damage from the recent clashes to relations, which have slowly warmed since Pakistani militants killed 166 people in the Indian coastal city of Mumbai. They suspended peace talks after the Mumbai attack, but both countries have economic and other reasons for wanting better ties.

## Japan woos Vietnam amid shared China concerns

**HANOI, Vietnam (AP)**—Japan's prime minister promised closer security and economic ties with Vietnam on Wednesday, bolstering an alliance that shares concerns over rising Chinese territorial assertiveness in regional waters.

On his first overseas tour since he was elected, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is visiting Vietnam, Thailand and Indonesia, three Southeast Asian nations that are major manufacturing bases and growing markets for Japanese companies as the government seeks to expand its moribund economy. The region is gaining in importance as manufacturers seek to balance risks from their investments in China, where anti-Japanese riots sparked by tensions over disputed islands in the East China Sea have hammered exports and prompted boycotts of some Japanese products.

While less explosive, tensions between Vietnam and China have also been rising over Beijing's claims over the

resource-rich South China Sea, much of which Hanoi says belongs to it.

Hanoi was Abe's first stop on the trip, which ends in Jakarta early Saturday.

In brief statements, neither he nor Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung mentioned China, but stressed the importance of their partnership.

"For Japan, Vietnam is an important partner," Abe said in comments translated from Japanese to Vietnamese and then to English. "Our countries share the same challenge, with economies that can complement in each other." He vowed to strengthen security and economic cooperation.

Japan is Vietnam's largest foreign investor, with total investment of \$29 billion in 1,800 projects. The East Asian economic powerhouse is also Vietnam's largest bilateral donor, providing nearly \$20 billion in low-interest loans in the past 20 years for infrastructure projects.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### China plans to survey disputed islands

**BEIJING (AP)**—China says it plans to conduct a detailed survey of an island group at the heart of a simmering territorial dispute with Japan. The upcoming study of the islands announced Tuesday is part of a comprehensive survey of China's maritime claims. The planned survey also includes islands in the South China Sea claimed by Vietnam, the Philippines and others. No other details were given. The move reflects Beijing's increasingly assertive attitude toward its island claims that has sparked fears of a regional conflagration. Tensions mounted in September after Beijing responded furiously to Tokyo's purchase of the islands from their private owners. The tiny, uninhabited rocks surrounded by rich fishing grounds and suspected undersea mineral resources are known as Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan.

#### Police clash with activists at Bangladesh strike

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**—Police have used pepper spray and batons to disperse dozens of activists trying to march through the streets of Bangladesh's capital as part of a nationwide general strike to protest a government fuel price hike. The six-hour strike Wednesday was called by political parties including the Communist Party of Bangladesh. It disrupted businesses and closed schools. At the beginning of the year, the government announced a 9 percent hike in fuel prices, the fifth increase since 2009. Authorities said the hike was needed to cut the cost of subsidies, estimated at more than \$300 million a year. But critics and opposition parties say the hike will further increase inflation now running at 9 percent.

#### Vietnam halts planned eviction of center for bears

**HANOI, Vietnam (AP)**—Vietnam has abandoned plans to evict a rescue center for bears from a national park, a move that follows pleas from western governments, U.S. senators and international celebrities to save the facility. Animals Asia Foundation, the Hong Kong-based animal welfare group running the center, had waged a public relations and social media campaign around the planned eviction that garnered it international attention. "Our priority has been to rehabilitate these bears after their years of trauma from being locked up in small cages and milked for their bile," Jill Robinson, the group's founder and CEO, said in a statement Wednesday. "If we had been forced to relocate it would have had a terrible impact on their wellbeing." The \$2 million center, which sits inside a national park 70 kilometers (43 miles) north of the capital Hanoi, is home to 104 bears rescued from Asia's bear bile trade. Bear bile is used in some traditional remedies in the region. The sanctuary has been in the park since 2005.

### *In Celebration of Her New Life*

## †Winefreda Maratita Sablan

*Lovingly known as "Nining"*

August 07, 1955 – January 09, 2013

#### *In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:*

Parents: †Gregorio Matantaotao and †Ana Quichocho Maratita  
Parents-in-Laws: †Bonifacio Reyes and †Maria Masga Sablan  
Maternal Grandparents: †Vicente Siquenza and †Margarita Manglona Quichocho  
Paternal Grandparents: †Juan Mundo and †Presentasion Matantaotao Maratita

#### *Brothers, Sisters, In-Laws and Nieces:*

†Margarita M. Norita, †Presentasion M. Igitol, †Maria Q. Atalig, †Rufina Q. Pangelinan, †David Q. Maratita, †Bonaventura Q. Maratita, †Vicente Q. Maratita, †Eusebio Q. Maratita, †William Q. Maratita and †Martino Q. Quitugua.

†Joaquin I. Norita, †Jose A. Atalig, †Herman T. Villagomez, †Vicente M. Sablan, †Martin M. Sablan, †Francisco M. Sablan, †Manuel M. Sablan, †Maria T. Maratita, †Felisa S. Pangelinan, †Faustina T. Sablan, †Margarita DLG. San Nicolas, †Vicky Ann M. Igitol and †Mae Elaine M. Igitol.

#### *Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** Luis Masga Sablan

**Children:** Elden M. and Nanae E. Sablan (Agida, Liana, Fuuna Starr, Luhanna & Libra Tai)  
Shanna M. Sablan & Lorenzo M Lifofoi (Keanu)

#### *Brothers, Sisters and In-Laws:*

Lucia Blanco-Maratita, Victorino N. & Alice S. Igitol, Oscar P. & Visitacion DLC. Quitugua, Agnes M. Villagomez, Victoria S. Maratita, Nora O. Quitugua, Eusebio T. & Incarnasion Q. Manglona, Francisco Pangelinan, Fred Q. Maratita and Antonio Q. Maratita.

Darlene P. Sablan, Ramon M. & Annie Sablan, Jose M. Sablan, Antonia S. Benavente, Julita M. Sablan, Rosita S. & Ricardo S. Atalig, Emilia M. Sablan & Francisco M. Barcinas and Ramona S. & Isaac M. Calvo.

She is also survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Nieces, Nephews, Cousins and Godchildren.

Daily Mass of Intention is celebrated daily at the following Churches: San Vicente Church (6:00 pm), San Antonio Church (6:00 pm), Kristo Rai Church (6:00 am), San Jose Church on Tinian (6:00 pm), San Francisco de Borja Church on Rota (6:00 am) and San Isidro Church on Rota (7:00 pm)

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2013. Her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to Santa Soledad Church in Kagman at 9:30 am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by entombment at the Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman where she will be at a peaceful rest.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYERS

**Luis Masga Sablan, Children & Families**  
**Quichocho – Maratita Family**  
**Masga – Sablan Family**



# World

## Militants seize dozens of hostages in Algeria

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)**—As Algerian army helicopters clattered overhead deep in the Sahara desert, Islamist militants hunkered down for the night in a natural gas complex they had assaulted Wednesday morning, killing two people and taking dozens of foreigners hostage in what could be the first spillover from France's intervention in Mali. The Algerian army has surrounded the complex and about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) from the coast, there is no obvious way for the kidnappers to escape in their four wheel drive vehicles with their hostages.

A militant group claimed responsibility for the rare attack on one of oil-rich Algeria's energy facilities, saying it came in revenge for the North African nation's support for France's military operation against al-Qaida-linked rebels in neighboring Mali. The militants said they were holding 41 foreigners from the energy complex, including seven Americans.

The group—called Katibat Moulathamine or the Masked Brigade—phoned a Mauritanian news outlet to say one of its affiliates had carried out the operation at the Ain Amenas gas field, located 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) south of Algiers, the Algerian capital, and that France must cease its interven-

tion in Mali to ensure the safety of the hostages.

BP, together with the Norwegian company Statoil and the Algerian state oil company Sonatrach, operates the gas field. A Japanese company, JGC Corp, provides services for the facility as well.

In Rome, U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta declared that the U.S. "will take all necessary and proper steps" to deal with the attack in Algeria. He would not detail what such steps might be but condemned the action as "terrorist attack" and likened it to al-Qaida activities in Pakistan, Afghanistan and in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Algeria's top security official, Interior Minister Daho Ould Kabila, said that "security forces have surrounded the area and cornered the terrorists, who are in one wing of the complex's living quarters."

He said one Briton and one Algerian were killed in the attack, while a Norwegian and two other Britons were among the six wounded.

"We reject all negotiations with the group, which is holding some 20 hostages from several nationalities," Kabila said on national television, raising the specter of a possible armed assault to try to free the hostages.

## Obama, Netanyahu seem headed for US-Israel clash

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Israel's premier on Wednesday dismissed President Barack Obama's reported displeasure with his hard-line policies toward the Palestinians, a sign that the two could be headed for a showdown. Polls suggest Benjamin Netanyahu is poised to win Israel's elections next week and continue in office.

This week an American columnist with close ties to the White House described Obama's disdain for Netanyahu, warning that Israel's all-important relations with the U.S. could suffer in unprecedented ways if the Israeli government doesn't change its policies.

Such a clash would come at a tense time when regional developments appear to be working against Israel.

Israel and the U.S. are seen as disagreeing over how and when to deal with Iran's suspect nuclear program, and Islamist parties that Israel perceives as hostile are gaining clout in the Mideast.

As the world deals with those issues, even Israel's close allies are getting increasingly fed up with what they see as defiant Israeli settlement construction on lands the Palestinians want for a state.

The column Tuesday by Jeffrey Goldberg about Obama's attitudes toward Netanyahu dominated Israeli news media, leading some Israeli officials to fume that Americans were trying to sway the results of next Tuesday's parliamentary elections.

Netanyahu seemed to suggest that when reporters asked him to respond to the column in Bloomberg News.

"We all understand that only Israeli citizens will determine who faithfully represents Israel's vital interests," he told reporters, dismissing the reported criticism.

In his column, Goldberg wrote that Obama seems to view Netanyahu as a political coward whose unwillingness to make concessions to the Palestinians is plunging his country into diplomatic isolation.

"Israel doesn't know what its own best interests are," Goldberg cited Obama as saying.

While the U.S. will not cut off aid to Israel or waver on its commitment to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons, Goldberg wrote, Israel might not be able to count on U.S. vetoes at the U.N. Security Council, as it has in the past, when the world lines up against it.

## Mali: French troops begin land assault

**BAMAKO, Mali (AP)**—French soldiers pressed north in Mali territory occupied by radical Islamists on Wednesday, launching a land assault that was to put them in direct combat with al-Qaida-linked fighters "in one to 72 hours," military officials said.

Their presumed destination was the town of Diabaly, where fleeing residents said Islamist extremists had taken over their homes and were preventing other people from leaving. They said the militants were melting into the population and moving only in small groups on streets in the mud-walled neighborhoods to avoid being targeted by the French.

"They have beards. And they wear boubous (a flowing robe). No one approaches them. Everyone is afraid," said Ibrahim Komnotogo, who was out of town

when the militants seized Diabaly over the weekend but kept in contact by telephone with other residents.

In apparent retaliation for the French offensive, the same group controlling northern Mali occupied a natural gas complex in neighboring Algeria, taking dozens of people hostage, including Americans. Two foreigners were killed.

French ground operations in Mali began overnight, France's military chief of staff, Adm. Edouard Guillaud, said on Europe 1 television Wednesday. He stressed that French infantry units "will be fighting directly in the coming hours."

Armored vehicles loaded with French troops were seen heading toward Niono, a town 340 kilometers (210 miles) northeast of the capital, Bamako. Some

70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of Niono lies Diabaly, with a population of 35,000.

Over the weekend, dozens of rebel vehicles cut off the road to Diabaly, seizing the town and its strategic military camp. French warplanes have since carried out airstrikes on the camp.

Oumar Ould Hamaha, whose fighters are believed to be among those who seized Diabaly, said that a convoy of armored French vehicles attempted to enter the town to take it back. He said the Islamists repelled the French after an intense and close combat.

"I confirm that France came in by land, but they failed. ... There was a combat that was (extremely close). Between 200 and 500 meters away," Hamaha said.

His version of events could not be verified.

## Message of Appreciation

*We the family of the late*



## Francisco Borja Palacios

*Lovingly known as "Tik"*

*Would like to extend our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to all our families, friends and neighbors here and abroad, for your kindness, support and words of encouragement during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness and prayers has deeply touched us. We are eternally indebted to you all.*

*You will always be remembered by the family of the late FRANCISCO BORJA PALACIOS, who rests in peace with our Creator.*

*May God Bless you all!!!*

*Thank you yan Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

Veronica "Cheng" Benavente Manibusan Palacios and Children



# Science & Technology

## Review: Searching for answers on Facebook

**MENLO PARK, Calif.** (AP)—Facebook unveiled a new search tool on Tuesday that gives users a chance to sift through the photos, places and other information available on the site—all through the lens of their social connections.

Would you like to know which of your friends live in San Francisco? Are you curious about who likes Madonna? Or are you dying to know which friends appeared in photos with you before 2006? Facebook's new search tool will tell you, in the hopes that you'll spend more time on the world's largest online social network.

The search feature, called "graph search," is being rolled out slowly. For now, users can only search in English and the service will be available only to a tiny fraction of Facebook's more than 1 billion users. As part of a group of reporters who attended Facebook's unveiling of the service on Tuesday, I was one of these users.

I got a chance to try out the feature and sift through my friends' interests, photos and other data. While most searches revealed little information about my friends that I didn't already know, it was nice to see

it indexed and categorized in a way that wasn't possible before. There have been countless times I've wished I could group my friends by where they live, or find people who've worked at a particular company.

Google, too, has tried to incorporate social features in its powerful search engine, but it doesn't have the breadth of personal data that Facebook has amassed. Even so, Facebook isn't the best place to search for home flu remedies or movie show times. As such, I will continue to use Google to find crucial information such as Ryan Gosling's age or the year "The Hobbit" was published and I'll stay with the reviews site Yelp to find the highest-rated Chinese restaurant in New York that's cheap enough to warrant two out of four dollar signs.

Facebook, meanwhile, should help unearth interesting details about my social network. It's through Facebook's search feature I that I was able to find a trove of adorable "photos of my friends before 1990," or see which of my friends are fans of the savvy Seattle sex columnist Dan Savage (12 of them, it turns out).

Searching for photos is one of the most personal and in-

teresting features of the new tool. There are 19 photos of me and my husband taken by my friends that my friends like, for example. There are "fewer than 100" photos of my family before 2008, which is pretty good considering I joined Facebook just a year earlier.

Rather than using keywords or various filters, Facebook's search tool aims to replicate the way people talk. It prompts users to "search for people, places and things" and will try to complete your sentences. It should get better over time as more people outside of Facebook's labs use it.

Graph search doesn't dig through people's status updates, only the likes and interests that they have listed on Facebook. But that could come later, as CEO Mark Zuckerberg hinted at Tuesday's event. The tool also searches photos—who's in them, who's liked them and who posted them. EMarketer analyst Debra Aho Williamson predicts a "mass exodus" of untagging and unliking of photos and interests as Facebook rolls out the search feature more broadly and people realize that the things they liked 5 years ago are suddenly searchable by their friends and others, depending on their privacy settings.

# Off The Wall

## Fla. 'python challenge' draws about 800 hunters

**BIG CYPRESS NATIONAL PRESERVE, Fla.** (AP)—An armed mob set out into the Florida Everglades on Saturday to flush out a scaly invader.

It sounds like the second act of a sci-fi horror flick but, really, it's pretty much Florida's plan for dealing with an infestation of Burmese pythons that are eating their way through a fragile ecosystem.

Nearly 800 people signed up for the month-long "Python Challenge" that started Saturday afternoon. The vast majority—749—are members of the general public who lack the permits usually required to harvest pythons on public lands.

"We feel like anybody can get out in the Everglades and figure out how to try and find these things," said Nick Wiley, executive director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. "It's very safe, getting out in the Everglades. People do it all the time."

Twenty-eight python permit holders also joined the hunt at various locations in the Everglades. The state is offering cash prizes to whoever brings in the longest python and whoever bags the most pythons by the time the competition ends at midnight Feb. 10.

Dozens of would-be python hunters showed up for some last-minute training in snake handling Saturday morning at the University of Florida Fort Lauderdale Research and Education Center in Davie.

The training came down to common sense: Drink water, wear sunscreen, don't get bitten by anything and don't

shoot anyone.

Many of the onlookers dressed in camouflage, though they probably didn't have to worry about spooking the snakes. They would have a much harder time spotting the splotchy, tan pythons in the long green grasses and woody brush of the Everglades.

"It's advantage-snake," mechanical engineer Dan Keenan concluded after slashing his way through a quarter-mile of scratchy sawgrass, dried leaves and woody overgrowth near a campsite in the Big Cypress National Preserve, which is about 50 miles southeast of Naples and is supervised by the National Park Service.

Keenan, of Merritt Island, and friend Steffani Burd of Melbourne, a statistician in computer security, holstered large knives and pistols on their hips, so they'd be ready for any python that crossed their path. The snakes can grow to more than 20 feet in length.

The most useful tool they had, though, was the key fob to their car. Burd wanted to know that they hadn't wandered too far into the wilderness, so Keenan clicked the fob until a reassuring beep from their car chirped softly through the brush.

The recommended method for killing pythons is the same for killing zombies: a gunshot to the brain, or decapitation to reduce the threat. (The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals doesn't approve of the latter method, though.)

Pythons are kind of the zombies of the Everglades, though their infestation is

less deadly to humans. The snakes have no natural predators, they can eat anything in their way, they can reproduce in large numbers and they don't belong here.

Florida currently prohibits possession or sale of the pythons for use as pets, and federal law bans the importation and interstate sale of the species.

Wildlife experts say pythons are just the tip of the invasive species iceberg. Florida is home to more exotic species of amphibians and reptiles than anywhere else in the world, said John Hayes, dean of research for the University of Florida's Institute for Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Roughly 2,050 pythons have been harvested in Florida since 2000, according to the conservation commission. It's unknown exactly how many are slithering through the wetlands.

Officials hope the competition will help rid the Everglades of the invaders while raising awareness about the risks that exotic species pose to Florida's native wildlife.

Keenan and Burd emerged from the Everglades empty-handed Saturday, but they planned to return Sunday, hoping for cooler temperatures that would drive heat-seeking snakes into sunny patches along roads and levees.

Burd still deemed the hunt a success. "For me, I take back to my friends and community that there is a beautiful environment out here. It's opening the picture from just the python issue to the issue of how do we protect our environment," she said.

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Passenger has baby aboard flight to Armenia

**YEREVAN, Armenia** (AP)—A passenger has given birth aboard a plane flying to Armenia and named her daughter after one of the flight attendants who helped with the delivery. The birth of the healthy baby occurred Saturday, two hours before the Armavia airline flight landed in Yerevan, Armenia's capital, after a long flight from Siberia. Flight attendant Asmik Gevondyan said she noticed that 31-year-old passenger Armina Babayan appeared to be in labor and organized the delivery. "All of our crew helped to deliver the baby," Gevondyan told The Associated Press. Babayan, who had claimed to be 6-and-a-half-months pregnant during check-in, named her first child Asmik, local television reported.

#### Germany: Robbers dig 100-foot tunnel to raid bank

**BERLIN** (AP)—German police say robbers dug a 30-meter (100-foot) tunnel into the safe deposit room of a Berlin bank and escaped with their haul, setting a fire as they left to cover their tracks. Berlin police spokesman Thomas Neuendorf says the tunnel led from an underground garage into the bank's safe deposit room. Neuendorf told The Associated Press

Monday that the tunnel was "very professional" and must have taken weeks or even months to complete. It was elaborately constructed and even had ceiling supports. Police were alerted to the break-in early Monday when a security guard noticed smoke coming from the deposit room. Neuendorf says police are still trying to determine what valuables were stolen from the deposit boxes.

#### Nev. manager wants to change city 'hamburger' logo

**HENDERSON, Nev.** (AP)—The city manager in Henderson, Nev., says he wants to update the city's logo after it was mistaken for a hamburger. Jacob Snow tells the Las Vegas Review-Journal the logo is too detailed to reprint clearly on small items such as business cards. He also says he doesn't like the image's saguaro cactus, which is not native to the Mojave desert. The circular logo was adopted in 1993 and features a mountain range, a lake, buildings and a golf course through the middle. City spokesman Bud Cranor says the more than 14 different colors on the image make it difficult to replicate. Snow announced in August that he wanted to change the logo but says he wants to phase it out over time to keep costs down.

### Message of Appreciation

We the family of  
Our beloved Son, Brother, Father and Uncle

## James Sablan Pangelinan

July 18, 1968 - December 18, 2012

Would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all Our, Families and Friends, most especially, those at Houston, Texas, and those who flew in from California and Guam, to visit during our beloved James stay at the hospital.

Thank You

For your kindness, support and words of consolation during our time of sorrow. Your most comforting expression of sympathy and prayers has deeply touched us.

Thank you very much from our hearts and we will always remember you all in our prayers. We Love You All.

Si Yu'us Ma'asi — Thank You

**Rudy C. & Rosa S. Pangelinan and Family**

*Give thanks to the God of heaven, for his steadfast love endures forever.*

Psalms 136:26



# Michelle Obama lets wardrobe take back seat

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Michelle Obama has proven her fashion savvy time and again since she was introduced as first lady in a lemongrass-yellow sheath and coat by Isabel Toledo on Inauguration Day 2009—so much so that we don't discuss it nearly as much as we used to.

Four years ago, there was a daily barrage in the media: Jason Wu gown! J. Crew gloves! Jimmy Choo shoes! It remained that way for months and even years.

There was the Naeem Khan beaded strapless gown for the first state dinner in the Obama White House, the black racer-back dress by Michael Kors worn in her official portrait. Her wardrobe for the Obamas' state visit to England, including the white cross-neck halter gown by Tom Ford she wore to a black-tie event with Queen Elizabeth in London, and the fiery red Alexander McQueen she wore the for the state dinner the Obamas hosted for China generated news around the globe.

Even more recently, her pink Tracy Reese dress was practically an honored guest at the Democratic National Convention in September, and one of the moments so many are eagerly anticipating on Monday is when she'll emerge in her gown for the inaugural balls.

But she's figured out a way to largely move the focus from her style to her substance.

"What's really interesting about the first lady is that she's been able to incorporate the fact that she's stylish into a much larger persona," says Ariel Foxman, managing editor of InStyle magazine.

In the early going, there was



This Jan. 20, 2009 file photo shows Barack Obama, left, taking the oath of office from Chief Justice John Roberts, not seen, as his wife Michelle, holds the Lincoln Bible and daughters Sasha, right and Malia, look on at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

intense focus on what she'd wear "because we hadn't seen a first lady who had such an innate style and sense of color—and great arms," he adds. "It's been exciting to see a first lady embracing fashion by remaining consistently interesting and diverse in her fashion choices, and in doing that, she's been able to draw attention elsewhere."

She probably doesn't want the first question when she visits a school to promote healthy living to be about her sneakers, and she doesn't want the print of her dress to steal the thunder of a speech about veterans.

"Consistency has made her look much more matter of fact," Foxman adds.

Yet in an age of the overused term "style icon," Obama is one of the few modern women to deserve it. In the past four years she has adeptly walked—usually in kitten heels or ballet flats—the line between directional fashionista and everywoman. She has a pretty deep tool box and she knows how to use it, says Kevan Hall, a Los Angeles-based designer. "Every designer wants to dress her," he says. (She has worn his label.)

"Just like any woman, she

wants to look pretty, and I think she's having fun with it. It must be fun to be a girl with a big White House closet," Hall says, noting all the events, galas and speeches to dress up for.

She looks comfortable in clothes that can be a little edgy, and, Hall says, women find that inspiring.

Nick Verreos, fashion designer, "Project Runway" alum and instructor at Los Angeles' Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, was the host four years ago in Washington of the California State Society's luncheon celebrating inaugural fashion.

## Jersey Shore town OKs deal to rebuild boardwalk

**SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)**—The boardwalk where generations of families and teens got their first taste of the *Jersey Shore* and where the MTV reality show of the same name was filmed is about to be rebuilt following its destruction in Superstorm Sandy.

Seaside Heights on Wednesday night was awarded a \$3.6 million contract to have the boardwalk rebuilt in time for Memorial Day weekend.

The walkway, one of the most popular and heavily used at the *Jersey Shore*, was destroyed in the late October storm, the state's worst natural disaster. Officials say it is the centerpiece of the borough's tourism industry, which funds 75 percent of its budget.

"A lot of people love Seaside and want to see what's happening this year," Mayor William Akers said. "If they don't come back, we don't eat."

Florence Birban, a 47-year resident, said the boardwalk means a lot to homeowners.

"We need a boardwalk here to bring in the revenue and keep our taxes from going up, hopefully," she said. "It just looks wrong without a boardwalk. I



In this Oct. 31, 2012 file photo, the Seaside Heights boardwalk is heavily damaged after Superstorm Sandy moved through the area.

look up the street, and I don't see one, and it's not right."

The work should be done by May 10.

Seaside Heights was famous for generations as a summer destination for families, teens and young adults. It took on a new level of fame in recent years when MTV set its "Jersey Shore" reality show on the boardwalk, where a tipsy Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi tottered unsteadily and Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino flexed his abs as cameras whirled.

The contract approved Wednes-

day just covers replacement of the boards and the substructure beneath it. Akers said a future contract will include ramps, railings and a protective sea wall.

Borough Administrator John Camera said the entire length of the mile-long boardwalk will be rebuilt.

That was good news for Sue Poane, another longtime resident concerned about the town's financial future and its quality of life.

"We need the people to spend their money here; we need the boardwalk back for the businesses," she said. "My husband

and I walk the boardwalk every Sunday afternoon. We have our supper at our special place—they have the best seafood in the world!—and then we sit and people-watch."

Seaside Heights is the second major boardwalk to see rebuilding begin; Belmar started work on its walkway last week. Spring Lake also has started fixing its boardwalk, as has Point Pleasant Beach.

On Thursday in Seaside Heights, the private owners of the Jet Star roller coaster plan to solicit bids from companies interested in removing the remains from the Atlantic Ocean, Akers said. They have been there since the roller coaster plunged off a collapsing pier during the storm.

Town officials are anxious to have it removed. Last week, a man sailed a small boat to the coaster, climbed to the top of it and affixed a flag to it before being talked down and arrested by police. Officials and some residents are worried about liability for the coaster if someone is injured on or near it. The beachfront remains off-limits and is guarded by police and state troops.

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## ★ NOW SHOWING ★

Broken City				
Friday		4:10	7:10	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Tues through Thurs		4:10	7:10	
Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Russell Crowe, Catherine Zeta-jones Genre: Drama • Rated R				

### Synopsis

An ex-cop turned private eye (Mark Wahlberg) is thrown head-first into a hotbed of trouble after a mayor (Russell Crowe) hires him to look into his cheating wife. Book of Eli's Allen Hughes directs from a script by Brian Tucker.

The Last Stand				
Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Tues through Thurs		4:05	7:05	
Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Forest Whitaker Genre: Action • Rated R				

### Synopsis

Arnold Schwarzenegger stars as Sheriff Owens, a disgraced lawman who fled the LAPD to lord over the sleepy border town of Sommerton Junction, which becomes the only thing in the way of an escaped head of a drug cartel's path to freedom in Lionsgate's *The Last Stand*. I Saw the Devil's Kim Jee-woon directs from a script by Andrew Knauer and Jeffrey Nachmanoff.

Mama				
Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:00	7:00	9:30
Monday	1:20	4:00	7:00	
Tues through Thurs		4:00	7:00	
Cast: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain Genre: Horror • Rated PG 13				

Gangsters Squad				
Friday		4:15	7:15	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:50
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Tues through Thurs		4:15	7:15	
Cast: Sean Penn, Ryan Gosling, Josh Brolin Genre: Crime • Rated R				

Les Misérables				
Friday		4:20	7:50	
Saturday and Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:50	
Monday	1:00	4:20	7:50	
Tues through Thurs		4:20	7:50	
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Russell Crowe, Anne Hathaway Genre: Musical • Rated PG 13				

Texas Chainsaw 3D				
Friday		7:30	9:45	
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	7:30	9:45	
Monday	1:30	7:30		
Tues through Thurs		7:30		
Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood Genre: Horror • Rated R				

Texas Chainsaw 2D				
Friday		4:30		
Saturday and Sunday		4:30		
Monday		4:30		
Tues through Thurs		4:30		
Cast: Alexandra Daddario, Scott Eastwood Genre: Horror • Rated R				

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 3D				
Friday		7:55		
Saturday and Sunday	12:55	7:55		
Monday	12:55	7:55		
Tues through Thurs		7:55		
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13				

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey 2D				
Friday		4:25		
Saturday and Sunday		4:25		
Monday		4:25		
Tues through Thurs		4:25		
Cast: Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage Genre: Fantasy • Rated PG 13				

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## Pregnant Kim Kardashian wants to be more private

**NEW YORK (AP)**—As the tabloids speculated about whether Jessica Simpson is expecting again (she is) and the media zeroed in on Kate Middleton's acute morning sickness, Kim Kardashian says it was nice to be out of the media spotlight during the early stages of her pregnancy. "I'm obviously so happy for them, but if anything I loved the privacy," the 32-year-old reality TV star said in an interview Wednesday.

That bit of privacy went out the window when Kardashian's boyfriend, Kanye West, revealed during a Dec. 30 concert in Atlantic City, N.J., that they are expecting their first child together.

Now that the word is out, Kardashian says her motherly instincts have made her pull back from being so open about her personal life.

"I think that definitely kicks in where you're like, 'OK, I have to go in protect mode,' and as ironic as it sounds, you live your life on a reality show but then when you grow up ... certain things change your life that make you want to be more private and this is definitely one of them."

The couple went public with their relationship in March.

Kardashian married NBA



This Dec. 6, 2012 file photo shows singer Kanye West, left, talks to his girlfriend Kim Kardashian before an NBA basketball game between the Miami Heat and the New York Knicks in Miami.

player Kris Humphries in August 2011 and their divorce is not finalized.

West rarely grants interviews, and the 35-year-old rapper is the ying to the Kardashian family's "out there" yang. Kardashian says she is somewhat influenced by West's approach.

"When you spend time with someone, you learn things from

them, so I see what (his) views are in wanting to be private, so that's a choice we make together as a family just in how we're gonna raise our kid," she said. "... But my personal experience of having really open relationships on the show, I've done that, and for me I feel like I got really scrutinized when people didn't maybe understand

my decisions at some point, so I feel like after that experience I've become more private more so than just like Kanye's views or anything."

Kardashian is due in July.

A new season of her reality show with her sister Kourtney, "Kourtney and Kim Take Miami," premieres Sunday on E! (9 p.m. EST).

## Fox hires Dennis Kucinich as analyst

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Days before President Barack Obama's inauguration for a second term in office, Fox News Channel has signed Dennis Kucinich, one of his former opponents, to be a regular contributor.

Kucinich, a presidential candidate in 2004 and 2008 who ended 16 years in Congress two weeks ago, will make his debut as a Fox contributor on Thursday's edition of "The O'Reilly Factor," the network said Wednesday.

"I've always been impressed with Rep. Kucinich's fearlessness and thoughtfulness about important issues," Fox News Chairman Roger Ailes said. "His willingness to take a stand from his point of view makes him a valuable voice in our country's debate."

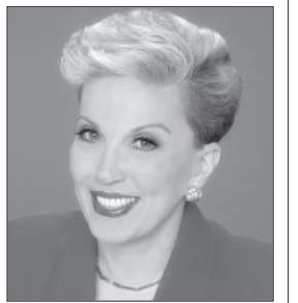
Fox is the nation's top-ranked cable news network, particularly popular with Republicans. Its big-name Republican contributors include Karl Rove, Sarah Palin and John Bolton. Democrats in the Fox stable include Evan Bayh, Joe Trippi and Bob Beckel.

Kucinich was elected to the Cleveland city council at age 23 and, at 31, became one of the nation's youngest mayors. He's also been an Ohio state senator and run his own communications and marketing firm.

"Fox News has always provided me with an opportunity to share my perspective with its enormous viewership," he said.

## King of the whoppers doesn't fool wife's clear-eyed cousin

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY:** My elderly uncle and aunt have a son-in-law who—to put it mildly—spins tall tales. "Tom" has been EVERYwhere, done EVERYthing and insists on telling anyone who will listen all about it. He speaks many languages fluently (until someone addresses him in one of them) and has had countless adventures in various countries, although he can't locate them on a map.

My uncle and aunt have bought two cars for their financially unstable daughter and this phony. Both times, Tom insisted on maintaining them himself (another of his legendary skills). Afterward, both cars required major repairs and eventually had to be scrapped.

After Tom's stint as a highly decorated Navy SEAL, he morphed into a genius at creating computer software, when he wasn't touring with a famous bluegrass band—the name of which he can't remember.

I am concerned that my uncle and aunt are so awed by this man that they might one day allow him to manage their finances (there is no topic Tom is not an expert on) or let him fix the brakes on their vehicle. I think you know where I'm heading.

I have to bite my tongue to keep from saying, "Tom, Yokohama is a city, not a country. And if you're really best friends with Johnny Depp, why not invite him over so we can all meet him? Oh, and what you're passing off as Farsi is Pig Latin."

Is there a way to tactfully intervene before something awful happens without upsetting anyone?

THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND

**DEAR ROYAL HIGHNESS:** Yes, if you do it privately, and say you are speaking up only because you are worried about their welfare. Then explain why you think Tom's stories don't hold water and point out that if he should volunteer any financial advice to them they should first run it past an unbiased non-family member such as their banker, lawyer, CPA or pastor before making any investments.

From your description, Tom appears to be a con man or compulsive liar. But whether your uncle and aunt choose to accept your input is up to them.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I work at home and use my computer. Everyone who lives here is over 35.

My step-grandchildren visit regularly, and I have told the children's mother that I have no parental restrictions on my computer. She assured me not to worry about it because she has reinforced the rules of responsible Internet usage with them and is confident her children won't break the rules. As far as I know, they haven't.

Today, one of my brothers-in-law visited and brought along his young teenage daughter. I let her play on the computer, and he caught her in a chat room with an older teenage boy. Instead of blaming her, he attacked ME for being too permissive with children and computers.

Do you think it is my responsibility to "protect" his teenager on my computer?

JUST A GEEK IN SOUTH CAROLINA

**DEAR JUST A GEEK:** No, I do not. I suspect that you were attacked because of displaced anger. His daughter deserved the scolding; however, because he could not (for whatever reason) scold her, he directed his anger at you instead.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

## Shakira hosts shower for underprivileged kids

**NEW YORK (AP)**—What does the baby of the world's most famous Latin American singer need? Nothing, apparently.

Expectant parents Shakira and soccer star Gerard Pique of FC Barcelona are inviting friends and family to join an online baby shower to benefit underprivileged children. Their own child is expected to be born early this year.

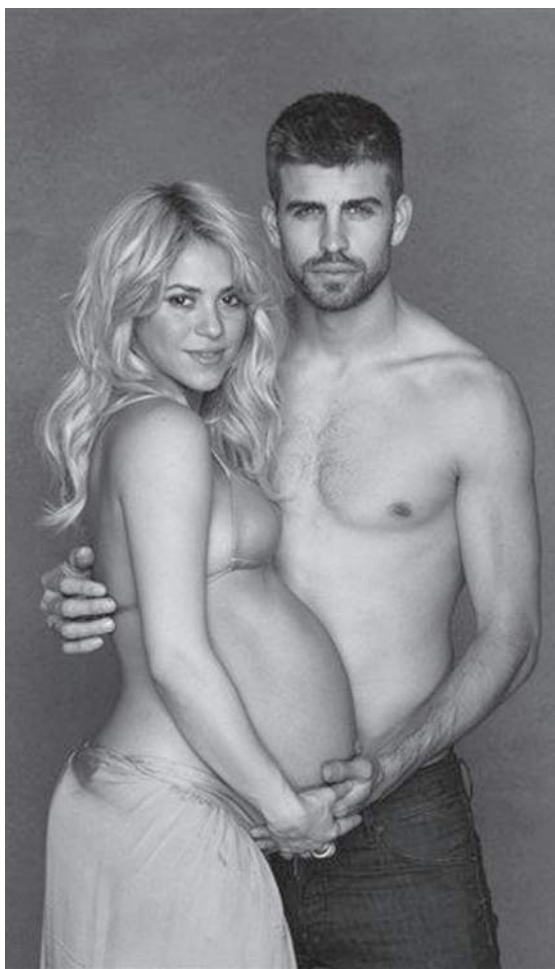
A UNICEF-hosted web site invites those attending the virtual baby shower to buy gifts costing as little as \$5, which can buy a mosquito net to ensure a sleeping baby stays safe from malaria—a leading cause of child deaths worldwide. Guests can spend \$10 for polio vaccines to protect 17 children, or \$37 for a baby scale.

"To celebrate the arrival of our first child, we hope that, in his name, other less privileged children in the world can have their basic needs covered through gifts and donations," reads a message from the 35-year-old Colombian superstar, a goodwill ambassador for the UN children's agency, and Pique. "Thank you for sharing this unforgettable moment with us."

The site also features never-seen photos of the couple, taken in December.

In a black-and-white image, a shirtless, 25-year-old Pique poses with his right arm around a hugely pregnant Sharika, who wears a bikini top and hip-hugging skirt that shows off her exposed belly.

A second photograph shows her in a white full-length gown that accentuates her expanding torso.



This December 2012 image released courtesy of singer and UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Shakira shows her posing with FC Barcelona star Gerard Pique.

## PSY's 'Gangnam Style' wins Korean top song award

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)**—Rapper PSY's worldwide smash "Gangnam Style" has been crowned song of the year by South Korea's music industry association.

The viral sensation that became an international chart-topper last year won the Digital Daesang honor at the 2013 Golden Disk

Awards, considered South Korea's version of the Grammys.

PSY did not attend Wednesday night's awards ceremony at Malaysia's Sepang International Circuit.

"Gangnam Style" clinched the award that's determined largely by downloads and ringtone sales. The song edged out

contenders by acts including Big Bang, G-Dragon and T-ara.

The two-day awards ceremony was held outside South Korea for a second year after 2012's appearance in Japan.

Boy band Super Junior captured top album honors Tuesday for its sixth studio release, "Sexy, Free & Single."



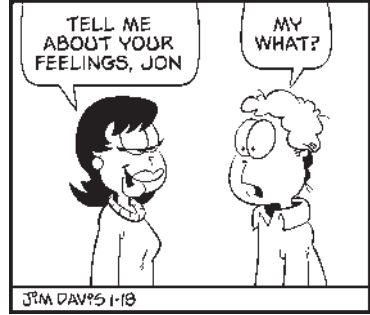
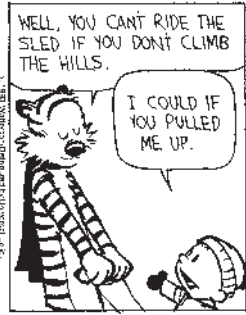
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

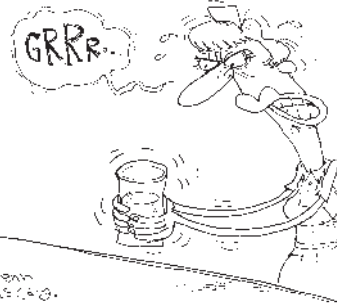
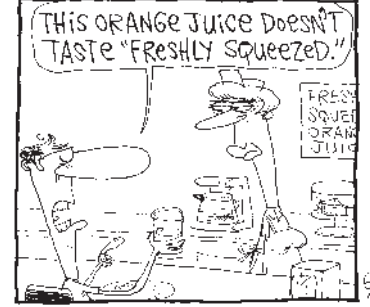


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Chances, for short  
4 TV watch-dog org.  
7 Obliterate  
12 Shell game need  
13 Under the weather  
14 Started eating  
15 Take a whack at  
16 Scrabble or Parcheesi  
18 "Monty Python" opener  
19 Wander off  
20 Hack  
22 Pilgrimage to Mecca  
23 Prayer ending  
27 Rhyming tribute  
29 Burning  
31 Magician's cry  
34 Cow catcher  
35 Triangular home  
37 Total

**DOWN**

38 Constellation component  
39 Eccentric  
41 Unctuous  
45 Twine  
47 Payable  
48 Indiana  
52 Literary collection  
53 "Drops of Jupiter" band  
54 "Golly!"  
55 Owns  
56 Villain in a Christmas tale  
57 Halves of 25-Down  
58 Scrap

**ACROSS**

2 Australian city  
3 Permission  
4 Wee whoppers  
5 Dress  
6 Barton or Bow  
7 Vortex  
8 Carpet  
9 Khan title  
10 — card (cellphone chip)  
11 Away from WSW  
17 Hindu royal  
21 On top of the world?  
23 Memo-rable mission  
24 More, to Manuel

**DOWN**

25 Type squares  
26 Ultra-modernist  
28 Weir  
30 Swine or bird —  
31 Anatomical duct  
32 Fre-quently  
33 Glass of NPR  
36 Oklahoma city  
37 Pistil counterpart  
40 Grammarian's concern  
42 Coeur d'Alene's home  
43 Moon-related  
44 You'll get a rise out of it  
45 Fax  
46 Dregs  
48 To the — degree  
49 Raw rock  
50 Pitch  
51 "Flying Down to —"

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

L	A	V	S	A	S	S	E	H	R	S
E	L	I	K	I	H	O	A	I	I	
V	I	S	C	E	R	A	L	O	N	L
C	A	T	R	E	P	T	I	L	E	
B	R	O	N	C	O	P	E	R		
Y	O	U	H	U	B	G	I	V	E	N
T	A	N	G	T	E	A	P	I	P	E
F	N	T	E	R	F	I	F	S	F	W
O	I	L	A	D	I	E	S			
T	A	B	L	O	I	D	J	O	T	
B	R	I	O	V	I	S	I	G	O	T
A	G	O	G	E	M	I	T	R	O	E
R	O	S	Y	S	E	R	A	S	P	Y

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jason Segel, 33; Jesse L. Martin, 44; Mark Messier, 52; Kevin Costner, 58.

**Happy Birthday:** Rethink the strategy you've used in the past. Recognize what hasn't worked for you and readjust the methods you incorporate now. Don't complicate your life. Keep what you need to do out in the open and listen to feedback from the people who have always been there for you in the past. Your numbers are 5, 11, 20, 23, 30, 36, 41.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't let erratic behavior cause you to make a mistake you'll regret. Difficulties with someone in charge of a situation can be expected. Do your best to live up to what's expected of you and move along without complaint. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Confront a situation that concerns you, and you will be able to put an end to a misunderstanding. A serious look at your future will lead to research and finding out information that will enable you to use your skills wisely. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It's a New Year and time for you to present a new image. Keeping up with the times will lead to compliments and greater confidence. Someone you want to get to know better will respond to the changes you make. \*\*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Ask questions and you'll get answers that will help you put your time to better use. Suspicion will lead to trouble. Look for facts and trust in your intuition and the people who have supported you to tell you the truth. \*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Enjoy activities and challenges that allow you to use your talent and skills fully. Avoid negative people looking for someone to take over responsibilities. You have to stick to relationships based on equality if you want to reach your goals and find happiness. \*\*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Welcome opposition and you will be able to put an end to anyone complaining or trying to outdo you. Facts and figures will outshine anyone trying to bully or pressure you into something you don't want to do. Love is in the stars. \*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Listen and observe what everyone is doing. Once you have a clear picture, you can take action, but be prepared to face opposition. Problems at home must be taken care of and adjustments must be made to add to your comfort. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Live and learn. The people you interact with now will teach you a valuable lesson. Your gut feeling will lead you in the right direction, but you must be willing to take action if you are going to surpass any opposition you face. \*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Consider what made you happy in the past and retrieve what's missing in your life now. Honesty will help you change someone's mind, bringing about positive change and a second chance. Make a promise and stand behind your work. \*\*\*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Emotions will swell up regarding matters concerning older relatives or children. Do your best to sort out how you can help without jeopardizing your position, morals or ethics. You need a change of pace and place to soothe your mind. \*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Take on a challenge or use your hobbies to meet new people. Entertaining visitors will open doors to new ideas or lifestyle changes. Incorporate old and new ideas to come up with something fresh, exciting and in-demand. \*\*\*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Your intuition will not let you down regarding affairs of the heart. Greater involvement in groups or organizations will raise your profile and your reputation. Love is in the stars, and letting your feelings be known will bring positive results. \*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are outgoing, emotional and adaptable. You are aggressive and unpredictable.

Eugenia's website—[eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com), Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	3			4			1		
1			2					8	
					9				
	9					3			
8				9				1	
		4					5		
			5						
5					8				9
	1			2			3	4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	3	7	6	9	1	2	5	8
2	5	8	7	3	4	9	6	1
6	9	1	8	2	5	3	4	7
1	2	9	4	8	3	6	7	5
5	4	6	1	7	9	8	2	3
7	8	3	2	5	6	1	9	4
9	7	5	3	1	2	4	8	6
3	6	2	5	4	8	7	1	9
8	1	4	9	6	7	5	3	2

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/17

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CESTUM 55

Solution: 8 letters

E	S	E	Y	V	A	E	H	I	L	A	K	L	A	W
D	T	D	U	C	T	I	L	E	L	B	A	T	E	A
I	N	I	N	I	E	P	B	S	A	T	O	V	T	T
R	O	X	H	U	O	V	D	R	E	L	I	O	F	E
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Alkali, Bernic, Bromide, Cation, Chloride, Clocks, Compounds, Density, Ductile, Electrical, Element, Explosive, Fission, Hazardous, Health, Heavy, Hydride, Industry, Lake, Lepidolite, Liquefies, Medical, Metal, Mineral, Mining, Nonradioactive, Oxide, Periodic, Power, Risk, Selenide, Silvery, Soft, Table, Uses, Water, White

Yesterday's Answer: Loosening

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## STUMPED?

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WHATZIT Solution: Square dance

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Email: marlenna.taitague@exxonmobil.com

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Must have skills in welding equipment such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc to weld components together to form repair and fabricate products. Ability to read lay outs and blue prints, follow work orders to weld components in flat, vertical or overhead positions. Minimum of (5) years work related experience.

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Closing date: January 18, 2013



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**Esther S. Ada**

**Human Resources Manager**

**DFS Saipan Ltd.**

**P.O. Box 500528 Beach Road**

**Saipan, MP 96950**

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## S P O R T S

# Williams, Azarenka into 3rd round in Australia



**M E L -  
B O U R N E ,  
A u s t r a l i a**  
(AP)—Serena Williams cautiously walked

onto the court, and tried to keep the points short to avoid irritating her injured right ankle as she advanced to the third round at the Australian Open.

Apart from a swollen lip from hitting herself in the face with her racket in the sixth game, she emerged unscathed.

Summoning all her experience from 15 major titles, including the final two of the last season, Williams lifted her tempo on the biggest points - winning an 18-minute game to open the second set, finally cashing in on her fourth break chance.

Nineteen minutes later, she finished off a 6-2, 6-0 win Thursday over No. 112-ranked Garbine Muguruza with an ace at 128.7 mph - the fastest she can remember serving.

"I'm on the up and up, I feel. It can only get better from here," she said, adding that she wasn't bothered by the ankle during the match. "Obviously when you go out to play you're heavy on adrenaline and you're really pumped up," she said. "Usually I feel injuries after the match but so far, so good. I felt pretty, much better than I ever dreamed of expecting to feel."

Williams said she was bleeding from the lip at one stage, "But it's OK. It's a war wound."

"I think it happens to everyone, but I have never busted it wide open like that," she said. "So, yeah, I was like, 'Oh, no. I can't have a tooth fall out.' That would be horrible."

Despite the injury concerns ever since needing medical timeout to treat her ankle during her first-round win on Tuesday, Williams planned to play doubles later with sister Venus, and will play her next singles match against Japan's Ayumi Morita on Saturday.

Defending champion Victoria Azarenka practically danced into Rod Laver Arena for the match before Williams' victory, and said she's starting to find some rhythm after beating Eleni Daniilidou 6-1, 6-0 in 55 minutes.

With temperatures expected to top 102 degrees, Azarenka didn't want to be out in the heat.

"I felt like I'm back into the competitive mode," she said. "I was really focused - that was for sure the best part of the game for me."

The No. 94-ranked Daniilidou only won 10 points in the first set and was shut out in the second despite having triple break point in the fourth game.

Top-ranked Azarenka had her friend and musician Red-Foo in the stands watching and

signing autographs, and said she went onto the court listening to a "great mix of disco music and a little bit of new music. I really start to like it a lot - there's no words really."

The 23-year-old Belarusian won her first Grand Slam title in Melbourne last year, during a 26-match winning streak to start the season.

"It's pretty difficult to duplicate something like that," she said. "All I can do is try."

She didn't win another major in 2012, dropping the U.S. Open final against Serena Williams, but held the No. 1 ranking for most of the season.

The temperature hit 93 degrees during her match, the first of the day on the center court.

Also advancing were No. 14 Maria Kirilenko, who beat China's Peng Shuai 7-5, 6-2, No. 16 Roberta Vinci and Elena Vesnina, who beat No. 21-seeded Varvara Lepchenko of the United States 6-4, 6-2.

U.S. Open champion Andy Murray had a 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 victory over Joao Sousa of Portugal. Murray, who ended a 76-year drought by British men in Grand Slam tournaments with his win at Flushing Meadows last year, didn't allow Sousa a single break point chance in steamy conditions.

Standing in the way of a potential second Grand Slam title for Murray is a likely semifinal against No. 2 Roger Federer, who was playing his second-round match Thursday night.

Others advancing Thursday include: 2008 Australian finalist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, who pretended to do pushups to disguise a fall during his 6-3, 7-6 (1), 6-3 win over Japan's Go Soeda; No. 17 Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany, who edged Israeli qualifier Amir Weintraub 6-2, 7-6 (4), 6-4; and Lithuanian qualifier Ricardas Berankis ousted No. 25 Florian Mayer 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.

Novak Djokovic advanced on Wednesday night, extending his winning streak at Melbourne Park to 16 with a 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 win over 20-year-old American Ryan Harrison and remaining on track for a third consecutive Australian Open title.

No. 4 David Ferrer, No. 5 Tomas Berdych and No. 8 Janko Tipsarevic all went through on day three, along with No. 20 Sam Querrey, the highest-ranked American left in the men's tournament.

Women's No. 2 Maria Sharapova overwhelmed Japan's Misaki Doi in 47 minutes, even less time than she needed to beat fellow Russian Olga Puchkova two days earlier in her first competitive match of 2013.

The first woman to post back-to-back 6-0, 6-0 wins at a Grand Slam since 1985 next plays seven-time major winner Venus Williams in the third round



# BUCKLE-UP CNMI



# Eagles get their man; Kelly lands in Philadelphia



**PHILADELPHIA** (AP)—Moments after Chip Kelly's plane landed, he was handed a new Eagles visor and received a warm greeting from fans gathered at the airport.

Welcome to Philadelphia, Coach.

The Eagles hired Kelly on Wednesday, just 10 days after he decided to stay at Oregon. The 49-year-old Kelly, known as an offensive innovator, becomes the 21st coach in team history and replaces Andy Reid, who was fired on Dec. 31 after a 4-12 season.

He'll be introduced at a news conference Thursday at 1:30 p.m. at the Eagles' practice facility.

"The challenge is what I was excited about and that's why I came," Kelly told a group of reporters upon landing in Philly. "I was sold on the Eagles the first time I met them, it was my ties to Oregon that made it hard. But the Eagles are the Eagles. This is the NFL."

"My dream is to just win, and with the Eagles, this was the best opportunity for me to win. I never thought a long time ago that I was going to be able to coach in the NFL but I'm excited about the opportunity."

General manager Howie Roseman gave Kelly the white Eagles visor, the trademark hat he wore at Oregon. Kelly then got a glimpse of what this team means to this city.

Not only were Roseman and president Don Smolenski waiting for him on the runway—they arrived with a police escort—there were fans, decked out in green, waiting outside on a cold, dreary night.



Chip Kelly speaks to members of the media as he arrives at Northeast Philadelphia Airport, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, in Philadelphia. AP

"I know it's a rabid fan base," Kelly said. "I hope they don't boo me. It's an exciting time and I'm ready to get to work."

Kelly, who was 46-7 in four years at Oregon, interviewed with the Eagles, Cleveland Browns and Buffalo Bills in a two-day span after leading the fast-flying Ducks to a victory over Kansas State in the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 3.

The Eagles are known to have interviewed 11 candidates, including two meetings with Seahawks defensive coordinator Gus Bradley. All along, Kelly

was thought to be Philadelphia's first choice in a long, exhaustive process that took many twists.

"Chip Kelly will be an outstanding head coach for the Eagles," owner Jeffrey Lurie said in a statement. "He has a brilliant football mind. He motivates his team with his actions as well as his words. He will be a great leader for us and will bring a fresh energetic approach to our team."

On the day he fired Reid, Lurie appeared to be describing Kelly when he said he wanted to find a "real smart,

forward-thinking coach" who is "strategic, a strong leader, very comfortable in his own skin."

The enigmatic Kelly reportedly was close to signing with the Browns after a long interview Jan. 4. He met with the Eagles for nine hours the next day, setting up a soap-opera scenario in which the Eagles were competing with Browns CEO Joe Banner, their former president and longtime friend of Lurie who left the organization after a falling out. But that roller coaster ended when Kelly opted to remain—temporarily—in Eugene, Ore.

The Eagles interviewed two other high-profile college coaches - Penn State's Bill O'Brien and Notre Dame's Brian Kelly. Both elected to stay with their schools.

Bradley was considered by many to be the leading contender, though former Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt and former Ravens coach Brian Billick were in the mix.

That all changed when Kelly had a change of heart.

Kelly built Oregon into a national powerhouse in a short time. The Ducks went to four straight BCS bowl games—including a bid for the national championship against Auburn two seasons ago—and have won three conference championships.

Kelly originally went to Oregon in 2007 as offensive coordinator under Mike Bellotti. Before that, he was offensive coordinator at New Hampshire, where he started devising the innovative hurry-up offense the Ducks are known for now.

Oregon finished last season 12-1. The team was ranked No. 1 and ap-

peared headed for another shot at the national championship until a 17-14 loss to Stanford Nov. 17.

Ducks athletic director Rob Mullens said Wednesday that Kelly called him at 7:15 a.m. PST to tell him he had changed his mind: "He wasn't sure if that opportunity would present itself again, so he felt this was the right one at the right time."

Mullens now faces a coaching search amid recruiting season.

"I've turned the page," Mullens said. "I was surprised when I got the call this morning, but as the leader of this organization, my focus is on moving forward and that's what we're doing. I'm laser focused on what's next, and that's finding the right fit to lead Oregon football."

It's unknown whether the possibility of NCAA sanctions based on Oregon's use of recruiting services factored into Kelly's reversal. He indicated in Arizona that he isn't running from anything.

"We've cooperated fully with them," he said. "If they want to talk to us again, we'll continue to cooperate fully. I feel confident in the situation."

Kelly doesn't have any pro coaching experience, but aspects of his up-tempo offense are already being used by New England and Washington.

The Eagles fired Reid after two forgettable years. A late flurry brought the team to an 8-8 finish last season, but this season, Philadelphia endured an eight-game losing streak, and dropped 11 of its final 12. A 3-1 start soon washed away, and Reid's 14-year tenure ended not long after. Within a week, Reid was Kansas City's new coach.

## Armstrong responds to AP: 'People can decide' the truth

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Lance Armstrong said viewers can judge for themselves how candid he was in his interview with Oprah Winfrey.

"I left it all on the table with her and when it airs the people can decide," he said in a text message to The Associated Press.

Armstrong responded to a report in the New York Daily News, citing an unidentified source, that he was not contrite when he acknowledged during Monday's taping with Winfrey that he used performance-enhancing drugs. Although the first installment of a two-part interview doesn't air until Thursday night, there has been no shortage of opinions or advice on what Armstrong should say.

Livestrong, the cancer charity Armstrong founded in 1997 and was forced to walk away from last year, said in a statement Wednesday it expected him to be "completely truthful and forthcoming." A day earlier, World Anti-Doping Agency general director David Howman said nothing short of a confession under oath - "not talking to a talk-show host" - could prompt a reconsideration of Armstrong's lifetime ban from sanctioned events. And Frankie Andreu, a former teammate that Armstrong turned on, said the disgraced cyclist had an obligation to tell all he knew and help clean up the sport.

Armstrong has held conversations with officials from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, including a reportedly contentious face-to-face meeting with USADA chief executive Travis Tygart

near the Denver airport. It was USA-DA's 1,000-page report last year, including testimony from nearly a dozen former teammates, that portrayed Armstrong as the leader of a sophisticated doping ring that enveloped the U.S. Postal Service team on the way to title after title at the Tour de France. In addition to the lifetime ban, Armstrong was stripped of all seven wins, lost nearly all of his endorsements and was forced to cut ties with Livestrong.

According to a person with knowledge of the situation, Armstrong has information that might lead to his ban being reduced to eight years. That would make him eligible to compete in elite triathlons, many of which are sanctioned under world anti-doping rules, in 2020, when Armstrong will be 49. He was a professional athlete in the three-discipline sport as a teenager, and returned to competition after retiring from cycling in 2011.

That person also said the bar for Armstrong's redemption is higher now than when the case was open, a time during which he refused to speak to investigators.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was discussing a confidential matter.

Armstrong, who always prized loyalty on his racing teams, now faces some very tough choices himself: whether to cooperate and name those who may have aided, abetted or helped cover up the long-time use of PEDs.

"I have no idea what the future holds other than me holding my kids," he said.

## Rangers, Harrison agree to \$55M deal



**F O R T WORTH, Texas** (AP)—A person familiar

with the deal says the Texas Rangers and All-Star pitcher Matt Harrison have agreed to a \$55 million, five-year contract.

The deal includes an option for a sixth season, according to the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday night because the team hadn't announced the agreement.

Several media outlets had reported the deal earlier, all citing anonymous sources.

Harrison was 18-11 with a 3.29 ERA in 32 starts last year for the Rangers, and 32-20 the past two seasons.

The deal came a day after the 27-year-old left-hander filed for salary arbitration. Harrison could have become a free agent following the 2014 season.

The Mariners added some much-needed power to their lineup Wednesday, acquiring Michael Morse from Washington in a three-team deal that moved catcher John Jaso from Seattle to Oakland.

Meanwhile, the NL East champion Nationals reacquired pitching prospect A.J. Cole, dealt from Washington to Oakland 13 months ago in the trade for Gio Gonzalez. Washington also got minor league pitcher Blake Treinen and a player to be named.

Morse hit .291 with 18 home runs and 62 RBIs last year in an injury-shortened season, playing mostly as a corner outfielder. He was with the Mariners from 2005-08 before he was traded to the Nationals for Ryan Langerhans in June 2009.

"I'm just glad this whole thing has unfolded the way it has," Morse said on a conference call, noting he was aware he might be traded by Washington.

"I knew there were teams involved and I knew Seattle was one of them. That was one of the teams I was hoping for. I love it out there and I always felt like I had an unfinished-business feeling in Seattle. I never got to prove myself completely what kind of player I could be or who I am," he said.

The deal clears up a logjam in the outfield for Washington and at designated hitter for Seattle.

The Nationals acquired speedy center fielder Denard Span from Minnesota this offseason and contemplated moving the 30-year-old Morse to first base but then resigned Adam LaRoche. They are set at the corner outfield spots with Bryce Harper and Jayson Werth.

Jaso, 29, batted .276 with 10 homers and 50 RBIs last year but became expendable when Seattle obtained Kendrys Morales and Raul Ibanez, moves that shift Jesus Montero from a catcher-DH split to primarily behind the plate. The AL West champion A's traded starting catcher Kurt Suzuki to

the Nationals last season and replaced him with rookie Derek Norris.

To open a roster spot for Jaso, Oakland designated catcher George Kotaras for assignment.

After struggling to score for years, Seattle has been trying to add offense the entire offseason. The Mariners acquired Morales in a trade with the Angels and pursued Arizona slugger Justin Upton. Seattle had a deal in place with the Diamondbacks, but the two-time All-Star blocked the trade.

Upton's contract gave him the power to turn down a trade to a short list of cities, Seattle included.

Morse, however, was happy to return and said he's comfortable playing first base or the outfield.

"My main goal is to play every single game. I'm so excited. Words can't describe what me and my family are going through right now. Seattle is where I got my first shot," he said. "I'm glad to be back home."

Morse had a breakout season in 2011 with Washington, hitting .303 with 31 homers and 95 RBIs. He was sidelined until June last season because of a strained back muscle and later missed time with wrist and thumb injuries.

"He's got big-time power and has obviously grown and accomplished quite a bit since he's been in Washington," Mariners general manager Jack Zduriencik said. "I was very, very excited today after I talked to him about how excited he was and that really made me feel good."



# LeBron eclipses 20K points, Heat top Warriors



**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—** LeBron James became the youngest player in NBA history to score 20,000 points and also surpassed 5,000 assists on a milestone night Wednesday, leading the Miami Heat to a 92-75 victory over the undermanned Golden State Warriors.

On a road trip that has had more bad news than good, James rewrote the headlines and the record book. He finished with 25 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds.

James eclipsed both marks before halftime, helped Miami go ahead by 34 points in the third quarter and allowed coach Erik Spoelstra to rest his starters—without debate—for the fourth. Dwyane Wade added 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists and Mario Chalmers scored 15 for the Heat, who had lost three of their last four away from home.

## Hornets 90, Celtics 78

In Boston, Austin Rivers won his first NBA game against his father as the New Orleans Hornets beat coach Doc Rivers and the Celtics 90-78 on Wednesday night.

Greivis Vasquez scored 15 points with 11 rebounds and Al-Farouq Aminu had 18 points and nine rebounds for New Orleans, which won for the sixth time in seven games and stopped Boston's six-game winning streak. Austin Rivers scored eight points against his



AP  
Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) shoots next to Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Oakland, Calif., Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013.

dad's team; they became the fourth father-son matchup in NBA history.

Paul Pierce scored 12 points with 10 rebounds before fouling out in the final minutes.

## Spurs 103, Grizzlies 82

In San Antonio, Tony Parker had 17 points and 11 assists and Tim Duncan scored 19 to help San Antonio beat Memphis, extending its home winning streak to

13 games.

The Spurs shot 58 percent from the field in becoming only the third team to score more than 100 points against the Grizzlies. Boris Diaw added 14, Kawhi Leonard 13 and Tiago Splitter 10 for San Antonio (30-11).

## Thunder 117, Nuggets 97

In Oklahoma City, Russell Westbrook scored 32 points, Kevin Martin had 20 and Oklahoma City snapped Denver's six-game winning streak.

Kevin Durant added 20 points and tied his career high with five steals as NBA-best Oklahoma City led wire-to-wire for just the second time this season.

The Thunder opened a 16-point lead in the first quarter and remained in control throughout, pulling their starters for the fourth quarter with a 25-point edge.

## Hawks 109, Nets 95

In Atlanta, Jeff Teague had a career-high 28 points and 11 assists, Zaza Pachulia finished two assists shy of a triple-double and the short-handed Atlanta Hawks ended Brooklyn's seven-game winning streak.

The Hawks played without leading scorer Josh Smith, suspended for one game and fined an undisclosed amount for "conduct detrimental to the team" following an incident in practice Tuesday.

## Mavericks 105, Rockets 100

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 19 points, O.J. Mayo hit two tie-breaking free throws and Dallas held off a Jeremy Lin-led surge to beat Houston.

Lin and James Harden combined to score the last 18 points for the Rockets, who erased an 11-point fourth-quarter deficit and got even at 97. After Elton Brand blocked a layup attempt by Harden, Mayo hit both free throws after getting fouled at the other end.

Lin had a chance to tie the score on free throws, but missed the second of two.

## Bulls 107, Raptors 105, OT

In Toronto, Luol Deng hit a tie-breaking jumper with 3 seconds left in overtime and Chicago beat Toronto for the eighth time in nine meetings.

Carlos Boozer had a season-high 36 points and 12 rebounds, and Joakim Noah added 16 points and 14 rebounds for the Bulls.

Deng scored 19 points and Richard Hamilton had 15 as Chicago won its fourth straight road game.

## Magic 97, Pacers 86

In Orlando, Nikola Vucevic had 16 points and 15 rebounds to help Orlando snap a six-game home losing streak with a victory over Indiana.

Orlando has won two of its last

three, having also slipped past the streaking Los Angeles Clippers last week. It was the Magic's first home victory since Dec. 19.

The Magic led by as many as 22 points, breaking the game open with a big second-quarter run that included a barrage of 3-pointers.

## Kings 95, Wizards 94

In Sacramento, DeMarcus Cousins had 21 points and 16 rebounds while Tyreke Evans and John Salmons each scored 21 points to help the Sacramento Kings beat the Washington Wizards 95-94 on Wednesday night.

With the score tied, Evans was fouled on a drive to the basket with 11.4 seconds left. He made one of two free throws to give the Kings a 95-94 lead. Bradley Beal missed a runner in the closing seconds and John Wall followed with a desperation shot from inside the foul lane that never hit the rim.

## Cavaliers 93, Trail Blazers 88

In Portland, Kyrie Irving scored 31 points, Tristan Thompson added 19 points and 13 rebounds, and the Cleveland Cavaliers beat the Portland Trail Blazers 93-88 on Wednesday night to snap a four-game losing streak.

Nicolas Batum had 23 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who erased a 19-point second-quarter deficit and briefly took the lead.

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DOLPHINS

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Jason Lampkin scored 12 points for the Ayuyus to lead their offense, but Kagman needed some defensive stops to mount any type of comeback. That defense never came, as MHS only poured it on harder in the second half.

Dela Rosa, Lixing Dai, and Frank Macahito combined for 15 points in the third quarter for a daunting 68-45 lead, heading into the final period.

Surprisingly, Ohmar Nawaz splashed in four 3-pointers in Kagmann’s last ditch effort for a comeback, but it merely made the final score look respectable,

as the Ayuyus still gave up 25 points on the other end.

Dela Rosa paced MHS with his 17 points, while Darag added 15. Lampkin topped the box score with 28.

JUNIOR VARSITY  
MHS 57, KHS 31

The Dolphins sprung out of the gates for a stout 13-2 lead and went straight for the jugular in the second quarter.

Five different players put a hand in on MHS’ initial surge and the Dolphins continued to spread the wealth in the second frame. Jeron Ano led MHS scorers with his 8 points to give the Dolphins a 31-12 favor at intermission. Jason Evangelista led the Ayuyus at midpoint with his 6 points.

KHS (1-1) made improvements in the third quarter, but MHS (2-0) did not show any signs of slowing down and pressed on to a 48-28 separation, heading into the final canto.

Ano and Justin Cayading paced MHS with a couple buckets, while KHS laid down and was stipend to just three checks in the fourth quarter.

The MHS duo finished the game with 12 points apiece, while Evangelista matched their effort on the short end.

FRESHMEN  
MHS 27, KHS 16

In the inaugural freshmen division match in the MISO caging, MHS snagged an early 8-2 lead in the first quarter and never

looked back.

The Dolphins held KHS to one basket again in the second period and extended their advantage to 8 at halftime, 12-4. Mike Arciaga led a handful of scorers for MHS with his 4 points.

After being held to a bucket in the first half, Kagman’s Mike Muna tried to get things going for the Ayuyus. However, his 4 markers were neutralized by MHS’ Melvin Deocares, Kobe Mendoza, and Francis Rapadas, who stretched the lead to double digits, 19-9, heading into the final period.

The opposing teams then merely traded baskets in the end, allowing MHS to walk away with the 11-point win.

Meanwhile, the season continues today with Agape Christian School Torchbearers (1-0) taking on the Saipan International School Geckos (0-1) in junior play at 4pm, followed by the 5:45pm varsity tip between Eucon International School’s Blazers (0-2) and the Mount Carmel School’s Knights (0-1).

First Game

**MHS 27** – Deocares 5, Arciaga 4, A. Francisco 3, Rapadas 3, Admana 2, Bintz 2, Fidelino 2, Loza 2, Mendoza 2, Cosino 1, Toves 1.

**KHS 16** – Muna 8, Ada 3, Jepen 2, Retan 2, Faisao 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 6-2, 12-4, 19-9, 27-16.

Second Game

**MHS 57** – Cayading 12, Ano 12, Benavente 8, Yap 7, Ogu-moro 6, Ringor 6, De Guzman 2, Gaspar 2, Manalili 2.

**KHS 31** – Evangelista 12, Taitano 5, Racadio 4, Faisao 3, Sakisat 3, Arceo 2, Halstead 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-2, 31-12, 48-28, 57-31.

Third Game

**MHS 97** – Dela Rosa 17, Darag 15, Macahito 11, Aguilar 10, Mancao 9, Zapanta 9, Dai 8, Apolar 4, Cristobal 4, Choly-may 2, F, Santos 2, Suarez 2.

**KHS 77** – Lampkin 28, Je. Santos 17, Nawaz 14, Malwel-bug 12, Hocog 4, B. Santos 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-10, 44-25, 68-45, 93-77.

MORE

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more than three seconds from her old PBT (from 1:06.87 to 1:03.20), while SSC’s Coume Kaga (1:14.22 to 1:03.60) and Ayaka Sato (1:31.65 to 1:26.11) also earned new PBTs.

In the boys division, Kensuke Kimura had the best time at 33.41 seconds, faster than his previous PBT of 33.93 seconds, while fellow Tsunami swimmer Kaito Yanai earned PBT and age group marks (as reported earlier) with his 35.10 seconds.

Still in the 50m breaststroke results, three swimmers broke the one-minute barrier and got PBTs. The list include

SSC’s Akira Kadokura (from 1:01.72 to 56.47 seconds) and R.J. Pierce (from 1:00.64 to 58.39 seconds), and Tsunami’s Juhn Tenorio (1:03.98/59.98 seconds). Other swimmers who posted PBTs in the first race in the afternoon session were Tsunami’s Towa Irinaka (1:04.00/1:01.82) and SSC’s Jinnosuke Suzuki (1:06.31/1:02.23), Taiyo Akimaru (1:12.02/1:06.04), and Rintaro Miyawaki (1:12.25/1:10.11).

Another sprint event—the 50m freestyle—had the most PBTs (21) logged in the afternoon races. SSC’s Victoria Chentsova led the girls race with her 30.65 seconds, less than a second faster than her old PBT (31.55 seconds).

Also making new PBTs in the girls division were Tsunami’s Kathrine Illahi (43.31 seconds), Aika Watanabe (47.39 seconds), and Sophia Gauran (48.65 seconds) and SSC’s Jinie Thompson (58.44 seconds), Suzana Villagomez (1:00.99), and Nieves Villagomez (1:16.66).

In the boys 50m freestyle race, Tsunami’s Takumi Sugie had the fastest and PBT at 29.08 seconds, while 12 others also eclipsed their seed times. The list include Tsunami’s Hiroto Yanai (30.58 seconds), Mark Maestro (37.56 seconds), Kenshiro Yana (40.07 seconds), and Tenorio (43.75 seconds) and SSC’s Christian Villacrusis (33.66 seconds), Lennosuke Suzuki (37.43

seconds), Taiga Sato (38.30 seconds), Michael (41.89 seconds) and Michail (44.81 seconds) Villagomez, Miyawaki (45.95 seconds), Kadokura (49.27 seconds), and Richard Villagomez (55.18 seconds).

For the longer 100m freestyle, Chentsova was also the fastest in the girls and got her second PBT after timing in at 1:06.95, shaving more than a second from her previous PBT (1:08.08). Tsunami’s Miku Tammy made both PB and 9 to 10 age group records, as reported earlier with her 1:08.14, while 11 others also surpassed their seed times.

Tammy’s teammates Angel De Jesus (1:08.49) and Hiroto (1:06.90) Ryuto (1:11.90), and Kenshiro (1:31.92) Ya-

nai also had PBTs in the 100m freestyle, along with SSC’s Conatsu (1:43.25) and Coume (1:55.43) Kaga, Villacrusis (1:20.36), Taiga Sato (1:24.13), Michael (1:34.72) and Michail (1:46.02) Villagomez, and Miyawaki (1:38.56).

In the 100m backstroke, only two earned PBTs, while the last two races of the day—the 200m backstroke and 200m breaststroke—had all four swimmers getting new PBTs.

Tsunami’s Kyona Rivera timed in at 1:52.68 in the 100m backstroke, about 20

seconds faster than her old PBT (2:11.94), while Sugie also had a better time, logging 1:15.34 from 1:18.18.

In the 200m backstroke, Tsunami’s Tan had a PBT of 2:50.91 (from 2:56.99), while Tammy tallied both PBT and age group record (2:49.27). The 200m breaststroke was also an all-Tsunami race with Kensuke Kimura marking a PBT (2:35.19) and Kaito Yanai having the same feat with his 2:39.65, which is also a new age group record in the 13 to 14 division. *(Saipan Tribune)*

BLUE HAUS

From Page 32

poration (0-4), 76-57, last Wednesday.

Proa went on to quickly bounce back by routing Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell (0-4), 87-72, in the other game last Wednesday, while KB/ABCD II Market (3-1) upended Mobil Smiles (2-2), 80-78, in a nailbiter last Monday.

OCM threatened to end Blue Haus’ run, after taking a 17-5 edge in the first quarter off Clayton Kenty’s 9 points. However, Blue Haus found its form in the the second stanza and assumed control at the half, 35-27.

Big men Edwin Santos and Junar Guiab teamed up for 17 points in the first two frames for Blue Haus, which drew 6 points apiece from starting center Bruce Berlin and Noel David, while Kenty was held to two baskets in the second quarter.

Brendon Talania then broke loose for Blue Haus in the third period, scoring 8 points to lead the his team to a 59-37 favor, going into the last quarter where the eventual winning team cruised to the easy victory.

Santos turned in a team-high 16 points, while Kenty led the field with 17.

In the second pairing, KFC/Taco Bell matriculated a 19-13

lead in the opening period as Peter Mendiola and Joshua Sablan delivered 6 points apiece. However, Proa battled back and locked the match at 34-all at the half, as Lerio Pagarao and Dan Barcinas led a second quarter charge with 15 points and Ivan Devero contributed 6.

The tide turned after the break, so to speak, as it was all Proa in the second half. It built a stout 64-49 margin, as Pagarao and Devero beat the young guns at their game and ran up and down the court for a dual effort of 17.

Proa went on to twist the blade in the payoff period for good measure with Gino Libuw leading the team with his 8 points.

Pagarao top-scored for Proa with his 27 points, tying the combined production of KFC’s Jawn Joyner and Eugene Manglona.

In Monday’s battle of the undefeated squads, Proa grasped a 19-17 lead in the opening period, off Devero’s 8 markers.

Proa’s defense then held Blue Haus to 8 points in the second quarter and the former trotted ahead at the break, 36-25. Devero and Pagarao had 10 points apiece for Proa in the first half, while Esdrelon fronted Blue Haus with 9

Proa remained in control through the third period and held a double-digit lead, 55-

45, heading into the last leg before Blue Haus’ defense showed up in the clutch to pull off the win.

On offense, Leo Galarse came off the bench in the late minutes for Blue Haus and led the rally with a pair of huge treys for 12 points. Blue Haus also sunk five free throws to ice the come-from-behind victory.

Esdrelon finished with a game-high 23 points, while Devero scrambled for 20 in defeat. Notably, Proa’s primary scorer, Jack Lizama, was contained to 10 points.

In Monday’s late feature, KB Market stumbled into an early 18-12 lead, thanks to Preston Basa’s three triples. KB then managed to cling to a two-possession advantage, 38-34, at the pause. Both teams struggled finding their mark, though KB Market’s defense made Mobil earn its supper from the line aside from a pair of early long treys at the start of the second period.

Then Banjo Basila took the floor after the break and rang in a couple of triples for 10 points to move Mobil within a basket, 55-57, heading into crunch time. However, KB Market’s Basa and Marlon De Dios hooked up for 13 points down the homestretch to preserve the win.

WEDNESDAY  
First Game

**Blue Haus 70** – Esdrelon 23,

Guiab 16, Galarse 14, Talania 9, Santos 3, Muleta 3, Tumaquip 2.

**Proa 67** – De Vero 20, Pagarao 15, Libuw 10, Lizama 10, Demapan 6, Ogumoro 4, Yabut 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-19, 25-36, 45-55, 70-67.

Second Game

**KB Market 80** – Basa 22, De Dios 16, Paraiso 13, Aquino 9, Wesley 8, Fitial 5, Umali 5, Acosta 2.

**Mobil 78** – Estolas 23, Basila 14, Rabauliman 12, Peredo 8, Gamboa 5, Mangali 5, Jo. De Guzman 4, Ruloked 4, Gapor 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-12, 38-34, 57-55, 80-78.

MONDAY  
First Game

**Blue Haus 76** – Santos 16, Guiab 13, Talania 10, Galarse 9, Berlin 8, David 8, Capalad 6, Muleta 4.

**OCM Corp. 57** – Clayton 17, E Camacho 16, Barrios 8, Diaz 8, Sacramento 6, Tenorio 2

**Scoring by quarters:** 15-17, 35-27, 59-37, 76-57

Second Game

**Proa 87** – Pagarao 27, Barcinas 16, Devero 13, Libuw 8, Yabut 8, Inos 5, Ogumoro 4, Lizama 3, Babauta 2, Chariton 1.

**KFC/Taco Bell 72** – Joyner 14, Manglona 13, Francisco 8, Alegre 8, Abuel 7, Aranda 7, Fernando 6, Salem 4, Saturno 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-13, 34-34, 64-49, 87-72.

STRONG

From Page 32

absorbed its second loss in three matches. QQ improved to an even 2-2 slate, while the Chinatown Kings fell to a 1-2 card.

QQ had four players scoring at least two field goals each in the first period to enjoy an early twin-digit lead, 18-8. The Chinatown Kings trailed when they were held to four field goals in the opening canto and missed the services of gunner Preston Basa.

Basa was still missing in action in the second canto and QQ went on to pad the lead at the break, 38-24, with Ham Hambros and Jerome Norita combining for 14 of their 20 markers in that period.

Basa reported to the match in the third and connected two triples, but QQ still outgunned its foe, 20-15, to stretch its lead anew. Ben Lisua, who was limited to 2 points in the second canto, helped QQ protect its lead in the third, making 9 markers in that frame.

Down by 19 with only one quarter left, Basa tried to spark a rally for the Chinatown Kings, as he drilled four more treys. However, QQ would not be denied, as it answered back with Hambros leading the team’s attack with his 10 markers in the final canto.

Hambos and Lisua top-scored for QQ with their 18 markers apiece.

In the second half, Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai scored at least 20 points in the first two quar-

ters to lead Cellular Pro/Insider in the first half, 46-31, and spoiled the latter’s comeback bids after making crucial free throws in the fourth quarter.

Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai earned 9 of its 17 points from the foul line, including the last 4 that sealed its first victory in the seven-team league.

Jun Estolas was credited for five of those nine charities and finished the match with a game-high 29 points. Big men Alex Lauron and Gyles Ruloked chipped in 13 each. Bernard Montano paced Cellular Pro/Insider with his 18 points, while Marlon De Dios added 14, but was held to only 2 points in the fourth and fouled out in the home-stretch along with his three other teammates.

First Game

**QQ Rent A Car 81** – Hambros 18, Lisua 18, Norita 12, Sharry 11, Taylor 6, De Guzman, 2, Abuan 2.

**Chinatown Kings 67** – Teregeyo 19, P. Basa 18, Quizon 13, Avilla 6, Acosta 4, William 4, E. Basa 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-8, 38-24, 58-39, 81-67.

Second Game

**Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai 80** – Estolas 29, Ruloked 13, Lauron 13, Tenorio 17, Babauta 6, Diaz 4, Morales 2, Dayrit 1.

**Cellular Pro/Insider 74** – Montano 18, De Dios 14, De Leon 14, Rivera 10, Iglecias 8, Sacramento 4, Loste 2, Mateo 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-17, 46-33, 63-54, 80-74. *(Saipan Tribune)*



# NMIVA/Godfather’s House Bar Volleyball Tournament

PHOTOS By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Participants gather for a group photo after going over the ground rules of the NMIVA/Godfather’s House Bar Sunset Beach Volleyball Tournament held last Friday at the Fiesta Resort& Spa sand courts.



Vacos’ Chenny Lizama dishes up an overhand serve against Managaha.



Fiesta’s Elmer Esdreton jumps up for a spike against the Managaha Boys.



Vacos’ John Nekaifes returns the ball to Managaha.



Vacos’ J.R. Gechig goes for a backwards tip shot.



A Monam’Ko player returns the ball against Dig This Beaches.



A Something Fishy player clears out the ball against Harapwang Face.



A Managaha player powers over a spike against Vacos.



Dig This Beaches’ Tyce Mister sends over a spike in the opening round against Monam’Ko.



A Something Fishy player pops up a set for his teammate against Harapwang Face.





Eagles get their man; Kelly lands in Philadelphia

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



LeBron eclipses 20K points, Heat top Warriors

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Dolphins sweep Ayuyus in MISO caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**M**arianas High School swept Kagman High School, winning the freshmen, junior varsity, and varsity games in the 2012-2013 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.



The varsity match was played last with the Dolphins (2-0) overwhelming the Ayuyus (1-1), 93-77.

John Darag paced MHS in the opening 10 minutes of with his 10 points and helped his team post a 25-10 advantage.

Darag took a seat early in the second quarter, but Erick Dela Rosa and Joe Zapanta were there to keep MHS in control, as the duo hooked up for 11 markers. Darag then returned midway through the period and added 4 more to lift the Dolphins to a 44-25 halftime advantage.

**See DOLPHINS on Page 30**



Marianas High School's Joe Suarez legs out a fastbreak layup against Kagman High School during their varsity game in the MISO caging last Wednesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

## Blue Haus still perfect, Proa recovers

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Blue Haus is now the lone undefeated team in the 3rd QQ Car Rental Basketball Cup.

Blue Haus holds an immaculate 4-0 record after earning twin wins this week. It first beat former frontrunner Lions Club/NMC Proa (3-1), 70-67, last Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court and then downed OCM Corball Cup.

**See BLUE HAUS on Page 30**



Lions Club/NMC Proa's Rex Yabut sneaks a putback through two KFC/Taco Bell defenders during their game in the QQ Cup last Wednesday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

## More PBTs in final half of NMISF meet Strong starts lift QQ, Pacific Stars to victory



The afternoon session of the NMISF Swim Meet last Saturday proved to be more productive, as participants surpassed the number of PBTs registered in the morning races.

After tallying 25 PBTs in the morning session, Saipan Swim Club and Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center bet recorded 52 more from the six events that concluded the competition at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

In the opening 50m breaststroke alone, 14 PBTs were made. Tsunami's Daima Rivera clocked in at 45.37 seconds to eclipse her 47.24 seconds and set the fastest time in the girls races. Aika Watanabe, also of Tsunami, chopped off

**See MORE on Page 30**



Swimmers get ready for the start of the 100m backstroke race in the afternoon session of the NMISF Swim Meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



QQ Rent A Car and Pacific Stars built early leads en route to winning their separate Division A games in the DLX/Anchor Strong Invitational Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

QQ erected a double-digit advantage right in the opening canto to beat the Chinatown Kings in the curtain raiser, 81-67, while Pacific Stars/Gualo Rai established a big lead in the first half to down Cellular Pro/Insider in the second match of the night, 80-74.

The victory snapped Pacific Stars' three-game losing skid, while Cellular Pro/Insider

**See STRONG on Page 30**

QQ Rent A Car's Ben Lisua, seen here escaping the defense of Pacific Stars' Jun Estolas, scored 18 points in their 81-67 win over the Chinatown Kings in the DLX/Anchor Strong caging last Wednesday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

